

Israel announces creation of private bank

AMMAN (AFP) — Israel announced Tuesday the creation of a private commercial bank for the Middle East with the help of the European Union. Palestinian, Cypriot, Jordanian, Israeli, Egyptian and Greek investors will provide a total start-up capital of \$20 million, with another \$100 million coming from the European Investment Bank, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said. Israel's industrial development bank will be involved in the project which was a Cypriot initiative. Mr. Peres told reporters at the Amman economic summit. The private bank will work in parallel with the Middle East and North Africa development bank, whose creation was announced on the first day of the summit Sunday. European countries and Gulf states criticised the development bank and said they would not contribute to its capital. But Mr. Peres welcomed the fact that they did not try to block the project at the three-day conference here.

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جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية غير ملتحمة عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية - الاردنية - الراي

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5
20 YEARS

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1995, JUMADA THANI 8, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

MENA summit proclaimed a huge success King voices Jordan's pride for having hosted the event

By Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit concluded in Amman on Tuesday, with His Majesty King Hussein describing it as a great success and participants expressing high optimism that the event had contributed to consolidating the spirit of regional cooperation and paving the way for strong interaction between governments and the private sector.

The King, making a brief appearance at the press centre of the summit, also said the event was an opportunity to show the international community "a face of this country and its people, one that welcomes friends interested in the present and the future, interested in sharing with us the determination and the commitment to bring about a better life for all the peoples of this region, a life of stability, progress and stability."

"Everybody has agreed that the next one (in 1997) will be held in Qatar," the King added (see related story on page 14).

Answering another question on human rights in Jordan the King said:

"This country is very proud of what it has achieved. We are proud of democracy and we are committed to it. We cherish human beings and that each person should play a role in formulating his or her future within the legal framework and in the light of the Constitution."

"I believe that we are passing through a stage or phase, that we are heading towards a direction. We cannot say that everything is perfect but we are trying as much as

(Continued on page 8)

foreign currency reserves.

She said also that the U.S.

was trying to support economic development of the region through government-sponsored organisations such as the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), which is preparing to guarantee a multi-million dollar private-sector equity fund for Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian territories (see separate story).

Both officials deemed the summit a success that "may even have exceeded our expectations."

"We came here with two objectives," said Ms. Spero.

"The first was to bring people together... the second was to launch the institutions." Ms. Spero was referring to the three regional institutions inaugurated during the summit: The controversial regional development bank to be based in Cairo; a regional business council; and a regional tourism board.

The Crown Prince cited the



Crown Prince: MENA presented its immense potential to the world Cooperation is the means to rehabilitate region's economies and link them with international system

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday that the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit had succeeded in presenting the area to the world as a region with enormous potential that can be realised to the benefit of countries of the area, their people and the cause of peace.

Speaking at a press conference after chairing the closing session of the summit, Prince Hassan also said that participants at the conference got to know the numerous investment opportunities available in the Kingdom where profitable business can take place.

The conference consolidated the conviction that Jordan can be a place for investment and economic and trade interaction, Prince Hassan said, adding that this would bring direct and indirect benefits to the Jordanian citizen.

The Crown Prince cited the

loans that were provided to Jordan as well as agreements reached on joint projects as examples of the benefits the Kingdom made from the summit.

Prince Hassan stressed the importance of rehabilitating the economies of the region and connecting them with the global economy and capital markets. He said the summit provided a forum for interaction among private sector and official participants, noting that "dialogue facilitates development."

But, the Crown Prince said, the effort to bring about economic development will not be at the expense of political issues that still need to be resolved.

"We are talking about a new economic approach that will globalise the economies of the area," said Prince Hassan, stressing the benefits that will be gained from connecting the regional and local economies of the area with the global economic system.

But he said that economic solutions will not be at the expense of political issues

that have to be dealt with.

Responding to a question on Jerusalem, Prince Hassan said that "there is no Arab or Muslim country that does not support the Arab and Muslim rights in Jerusalem."

Jerusalem is a symbol for all believers and creative solutions are needed to solve the conflict over it, he said, adding that Jordan is committed to all Arab and Muslim rights in Jerusalem.

The Crown Prince reviewed the decisions that the summit made and the debates that took place in its session.

The debates focused on the role of the international community in supporting the peace process, trade and finance, investment environment, tourism, and the development of human resources among others, he said.

The Crown Prince stressed that the MENA summit was an economic forum that tackled economic issues and regional cooperation as means to rehabilitate the economies of the area so as to improve the quality of life and achieve economic growth.

But he said that economic solutions will not be at the expense of political issues

(Continued on page 8)

Peres: Conference a major contribution to turning political peace into economic peace

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Tuesday described the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit as a great contribution to the concept of regional economic cooperation and development and to turning "political peace into economic peace."

"I think there had never been a stronger statement on Amman as an economic centre," Mr. Peres told reporters. "It has changed the value and location of Jordan in the minds of many people in the Middle East and abroad."

The Israeli foreign minister, addressing a press conference, denied he had proposed setting up major Israeli infrastructure projects in Jordanian territory and said that he was only suggesting joint facilities for the two countries instead of each developing its own.

Mr. Peres said the Israeli government was planning to set up its "largest" consulate in Amman so that visas could be issued to Jordanians "on the spot" rather than after a lengthy process that takes weeks now.

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turning "political peace into economic peace."

"I think there had never been a stronger statement on Amman as an economic centre... it has changed the value and location of Amman in the minds of many people in the Middle East and abroad," he said.

Mr. Peres' approach at Tuesday's press conference, held at the Forte Grand Hotel and attended by a few Jordanian journalists, was dramatically different from the obviously aggressive, often lecturing, posture he adopted at an encounter Monday attended by hundreds of Jordanian, Palestinian, Arab and foreign correspondents.

The minister told Tuesday's press conference that the "message" he wanted to deliver to Jordanians was essentially that of what could be achieved through regional economic cooperation.

"There are (economic) revolutions taking place in Latin America" and other

parts of the world and "there are more economists in Asia than in New York," he said, adding "it is total nonsense" that "the colour of the skin" was a major factor in impeding development of Third World countries.

"I wonder why we cannot have such revolutions in the Middle East," which is endowed with "intelligent people" and natural resources, he said, calling for mobilising "goodwill, understanding and dialogue."

Asked whether recent comments attributed to him meant that Israel would like to set up some of its infrastructure projects in Jordanian territory but catering to Israeli needs, Mr. Peres said: "No, no, no."

On the contrary, he said, he was referring to joint infrastructure projects that benefit both sides. "For example the airport," he said. "If Jordan wants to have an international airport... other

(Continued on page 8)

Prime Minister meets Peres

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday reviewed with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres the progress in the implementation of Jordanian-Israeli agreements concluded under the peace treaty the two countries signed last October. The two sides, meeting in the presence of Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, also reviewed proposed regional projects on the agenda of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit. The prime minister said that Jordan views economic progress and economic cooperation as a basic guarantee for the success of the peace process since this would make the people of the region feel the benefits of peace. Sharif Zeid also emphasised the need for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace involving all concerned parties on all Arab-Israeli tracks. Mr. Peres voiced appreciation of the Jordanian efforts in organising the MENA meeting noting that the excellent organisation contributed to the conference's success.

Regional institutions established, financing mechanism is outlined

By P.V. Vivekanand and Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

THE MIDDLE East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, the region's largest-ever gathering, ended here Tuesday evening with a consensus among Arab, Israeli and international governments and businessmen that it was a landmark event and contribution to the economic development of the region in a spirit of peace, security and stability.

Government leaders and senior business executives from 64 countries, including host Jordan, attended the three-day meeting, which was described as totally businesslike by most participants.

The four core parties in the Arab-Israeli peace process — the Palestinians, Israel, Jordan and Egypt — as well as Oman and Qatar presented development and infrastructure projects as well as commercial ventures worth more than \$40 billion during the summit. But the onus was on the private sector to assume the leading role in taking advantage of the opportunities available.

The main objective of the summit, as seen from the Jordanian perspective, which was shared by many others, was bringing together potential international and regional business partners to review possibilities of cooperation.

Another key goal was establishing a partnership between governments and the private sectors, with the state doing what is needed in its domain to encourage investments and facilitate business requirements while businessmen de-

termining for themselves which projects suited them most.

Projects were presented in every sector of the economy — power plants, highways, railroads, water facilities and distribution, telecommunications, the environment, tourism and other areas.

Among the most notable achievements of the summit in the context of institutionalising regional cooperation were the establishment of a regional development bank with a \$55 billion capital expected to take off before 1998, a regional business council and a regional tourism board.

In addition, it was agreed that Amman would host the secretariat of the Regional Economic Development Working Group. Six regional countries also entered a tourism agreement, again with the focus on the private sector.

The final communiqué of the summit, the Amman declaration, launched the Middle East and North Africa development bank and pledged to promote increased private sector involvement in the region's economic development.

"The goals of the summit were to facilitate the expansion of private sector investment in the region, to cement a public-private relationship which will ensure that end, and to work to enhance regional cooperation and development," said the declaration.

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WEF chief outlines roles of government and private sector

Following is a speech delivered by World Economic Forum (WEF) President Klaus Schwab at the final plenary session of the Middle East and North Africa Summit:

The Amman Middle East/North Africa economic summit launches one of the world's most crucial regions on the path towards sustained economic development. It also testifies to the region's determination to claim its place in the global village by speaking with deeds rather than with words. The international business community welcomes the fact that the Summit created regional institutions to foster economic cooperation and develop and exploit the region's vast business opportunities. By doing so, it sends a strong message: "The Middle East is opening up for business."

Yet, recognising that peace is good for business is not sufficient to attract the foreign investment needed to rebuild and restructure the Middle East and North Africa. Governments must also demonstrate that they realise that business is good for peace. They must do so quickly if they wish to compete with other regions of the world. To achieve this, governments must ensure political stability and create an environment conducive to business in which foreign investors feel both welcome and secure. This requires seemingly simple demands, which in practice could involve radical change. It requires from governments enlightened leadership and vision.

To attract foreign investment, governments and the private sector should be encouraged to cooperate in ensuring principles of good government and the rule of law. They can do so by:

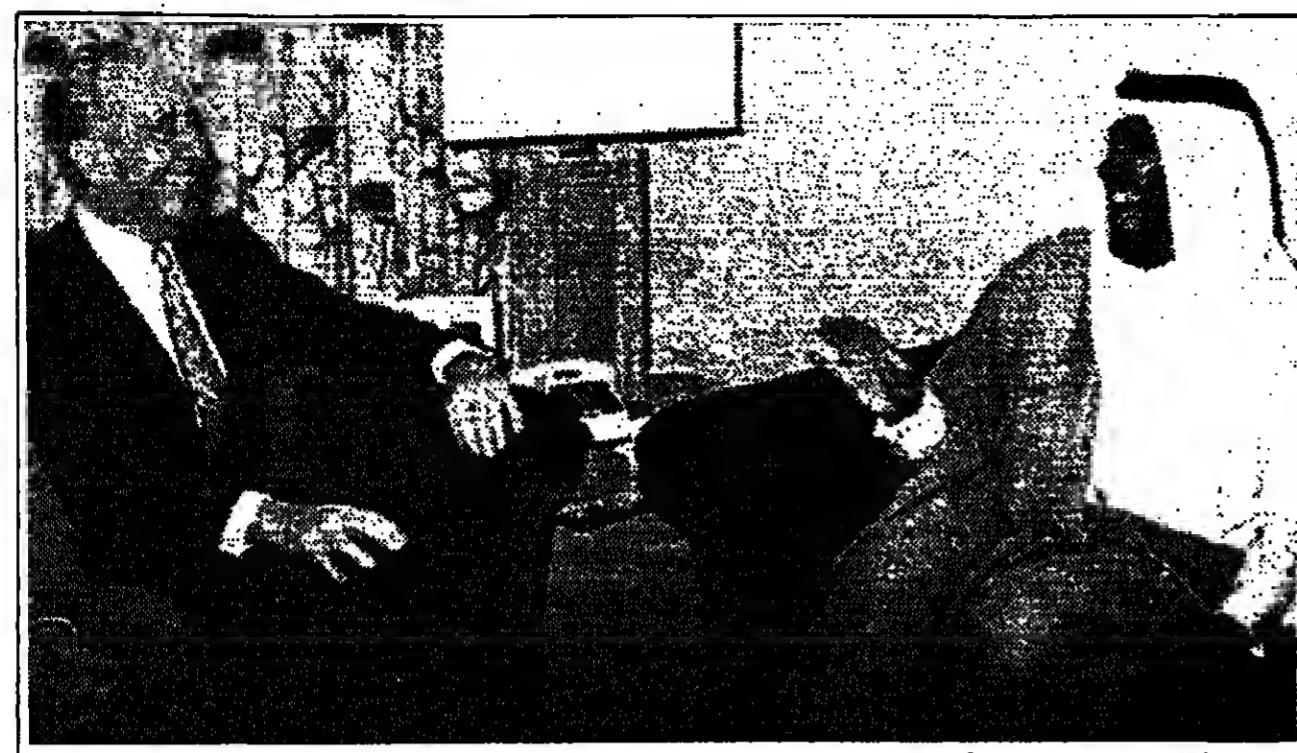
— Enforcing universally sound and fair business ethics and practices;

— Streamlining government to become cost efficient and customer oriented;

— Adopting transparency and accountability as the guiding principles of their operations;

— Creating mechanisms for resolving commercial disputes;

(Continued on page 8)



QATARI-ISRAELI TALKS: Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani share a joke at their meeting in Amman on Tuesday (see page one) (Reuter photo)

UAE to finance housing, services for Muslims and Christians in Jerusalem

ABU DHABI (R) — Vowing to strengthen the Arab character of Jerusalem, the United Arab Emirates president on Tuesday pledged to finance housing projects and meet the medical and social needs of the city's Muslims and Christians.

Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan promised to finance several new housing projects, renovate old buildings, and meet educational, social, and medical needs in Arab East Jerusalem.

The pledge was announced by Sheikh Abdullah, former minister of information and culture and the president's son, to mark the start of a week-long conference and festival on the Arab identity of Jerusalem.

"At this critical moment, it is incumbent upon all who believe in the unique and dear status of Jerusalem to rally all their efforts and capabilities in order to actively confront the illegal measures taken, and still being undertaken, by the Israeli authorities," he told a large audience.

Sheikh Abdullah said that pledge was prompted by "difficult housing conditions suffered by the Muslim and

Christian inhabitants of Jerusalem in view of the existence of licensed housing projects which need financing.

Sheikh Abdullah did not say who issued the licences, and it was not clear whether the Israelis, who control the whole city and claim it as their capital, had agreed in advance to such financing.

A UAE official refused to disclose how much money the Gulf state would pump into Jerusalem's Arab Muslim and Christian population centres, located in the Israeli-occupied east.

"There are housing projects that have been authorised but need funds. He (Sheikh Zayed) has decided to respond to the calls from the steadfast people of Jerusalem to finance a number of housing projects that will be named after Sheikh Zayed," Sheikh Abdullah said.

"He has also decided to finance projects to rehabilitate some facilities in the city and ordered the Red Crescent and the Sheikh Zayed Charity Organisation to meet all medical, educational and social needs of the Jerusalem residents."

Sheikh Abdullah did not elaborate on the projects but

official sources said they involved large funds. "We do not want to mention costs to undercut any Israeli attempt to block the projects," one source said.

Muslim and Christian leaders from the Arab World joined forces for the Jerusalem Festival in the UAE including fund-raising campaigns, lectures, cultural events and exhibitions.

Among them were Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid, Pope Shenouda of the Coptic Church in Egypt, former Jerusalem Archbishop Hilary Capucci, and Egypt's grand mufti, Mohammad Sayed Atiya Tantawi.

Faisal Husseini, in charge of the Jerusalem file for the Palestinians, the city's mufti, Akram Sabri, Palestinian Culture Minister Intissar Al Wazir, and former Palestinian peace spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi were also at the opening.

The initiative from Sheikh Zayed, a key financial backer of the Palestinians, was launched a week after the U.S. Congress voted to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The vote triggered anger in the Arab World which has

warned it could harm the peace process in the Middle East. U.S. President Bill Clinton, however, has drawn praise for vowing to block the move.

"The U.S. Congress decision constitutes a flagrant bias for Israel and threatens to scuttle the entire peace process," Sheikh Abdullah said.

Mr. Husseini drew long applause when he pledged the Palestinians would win back East Jerusalem.

"In the beginning, we had believed we could liberate Jerusalem through military force. We were wrong," he said.

"Israel is trying its best to control Jerusalem by isolating the Palestinian people from the city and from their own institutions inside the city and imposing new realities on the ground," said Mr. Husseini.

"But we will carry on with the confrontation through the available means and through your support... We can promise resistance, steadfastness and victory," he said.

The UAE festival for Jerusalem follows Israel's celebration of the city's 3,000th anniversary.

Balabagan appeals for mercy from Sheikh Zayed

DUBAI (R) — Filipina maid Sarah Balabagan on Tuesday appealed from a United Arab Emirates jail for mercy from a sentence of 100 lashes over the killing of her employer.

She told her father Karim by telephone she was asking for help from UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

"She is calling on him to pardon her from the 100 lashes and the one year in prison. She was sad on the phone. She wants immediate deportation so she can go home," Karim told Reuters from the Oasis town of Al Ain where his daughter is jailed.

"We are very happy she will not be executed. We won't appear in the federal court but we appeal to Sheikh Zayed to pardon Sarah," said the Filipino labourer.

A court on Monday also sentenced Ms. Balabagan to a year in jail and deportation for killing her employer, Almas Mohammad Al Bloushi. She said she acted in self-defence as he raped her.

There was outrage from Manila to Paris to Washington after the verdict by an Islamic court in Al Ain.

She agreed to pay the victim's family 150,000 dirhams (\$41,000) blood money — a condition for their dropping their insistence on an earlier death sentence being carried out.

"It's over," a UAE government official sighed after the third verdict against her in four months was announced.

His sense of relief was almost palpable.

This federation of seven sheikhdoms on the shores of the Arabian peninsula found the glare of world publicity over the case an unwelcome experience.

Ms. Balabagan was first sentenced to seven years in jail and then condemned to death at a retrial.

The conservative emirates, where 21,000 Filipina maids like Ms. Balabagan work and where three out of four people are foreigners, traditionally like to keep a low

profile.

Ms. Balabagan is said by Manila to be 16 but the UAE says her passport shows her to be 28.

She admitted stabbing 70-year-old Bloushi 34 times last year in what appeared from photographs of the blood-encrusted corpse to be a frenzied attack.

In Manila, people were shocked at news of the lashing.

Filipino activist leader Nelia Sanchez said whipping was a "very cruel" punishment that robbed women of dignity.

In Paris, the French foreign ministry asked the UAE to spare the maid, calling the caning "so contrary to our own customs."

Former French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius said: "The punishment... can only disgust those who believe in justice. You do not lash a woman, you do not lash a child."

A doctor and court expert on lashing would attend the punishment to be administered by a policewoman wielding a thin cane with a book tucked under her arm to limit the force.

to Sheikh Zayed and urged him to "act immediately to assure that Ms. Balabagan will not continue to be a victim of violent crime — especially at the hands of your government."

Ms. Balabagan was a victim of rape and violence at the hands of her employer, and now she could be revictimized by your justice system. The brutality of this most recent reported decision can not and will not be ignored," she said in a letter to the UAE leader.

The outcry seemed unlikely to be stilled by assurances that the maid would receive only symbolic, painless lashes.

"The intervals of the lashes will depend on how much she can bear," said Al Ain court Judge Sheikh Biya Ben Saliq.

A doctor and court expert on lashing would attend the punishment to be administered by a policewoman wielding a thin cane with a book tucked under her arm to limit the force.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773/11-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Madeline Ghost Writers

14:30 Tomorrow's World

15:30 Amazing Stories

16:00 I Love Lucy

17:00 Tarzan

17:30 Children's Programme — Coocie Minute

18:00 News in French

18:15 Jeux

18:30 Magazine — Sports Et Musique

19:30 Anything for a Laugh

20:00 Amazing Races

20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful

21:15 News in English

22:00 News in English

22:25 Drama — Law and Order

23:45 Doc — Silk Road

00:30 Second Thoughts

St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel: 623541.

St. Sade Church Tel: 661757. Terra Sancta Church Tel: 622366.

Church of the Annunciation Tel: 623541.

Anglican Church Tel: 630851. Tel: 628543.

St. Paul's Catholic Church Tel: 771351.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751.

Amman International Church Tel: 653538.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 654523.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 645457.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel: 675591.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel: 611295.

PRAYER TIMES

6:45 Fajr

07:45 (Sunrise) Dhuha

11:15 Dhuhr

12:45 Asr

16:51 Magrib

18:49 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swted, Tel: 810740.

Assemblies of God Church, Tel:

632785.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

QATAR 10 / 25

Deserts 17 / 29

Jordan Valley 18 / 27

Yesterdays High temperatures: Amman 25 Aqaba 27. Humidity: readings: Amman 32% cest. Aqaba 48% cest.

Khalilah pharmacy 985417.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637167

Civil Defence 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Police 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 637167

Rescue Police 61221111

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 773124

Highway Police 624302

Traffic Police 896390

Police Complaints 605808

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asmaa pharmacy 637055

Nairokhi pharmacy 623672

Yacoub pharmacy 646145

Shamsiyyah pharmacy 627669

Najah pharmacy 623672

Najah pharmacy 847632

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Clouds are expected to build up with a chance of scattered showers in the afternoon with winds south-easterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, scattered showers are expected with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 12/23

Khalilah pharmacy 985417.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637167

Civil Defence 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Police 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 637167

Rescue Police 61221111

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 773124

Highway Police 624302

Traffic Police 896390

Police Complaints 605808

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asmaa pharmacy 637055

Nairokhi pharmacy 623672

Yacoub pharmacy 646145

Shamsiyyah pharmacy 627669

Najah pharmacy

Rana Husseini, Times reporter, wins MEDNEWS prize

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A feature report on crimes of honour by a Jordan Times reporter was awarded first prize in the 1995 MEDNEWS prize awards which took place in Alexandria on Oct. 28.

The report, entitled "Murder in the Name of Honour," was written by Rana Husseini, who writes on crime in Jordan for this newspaper.

The report was an analysis of honour killings, with highlights from three major cases of such crimes which occurred in Jordan between mid-1993 and mid-1994.

The report was supported by statistical data and interviews with several sources: sociologists, an academic, a lawyer and civil rights activist, a public security official, the chief Islamic justice, a former minister, and in one case the murderer himself.

Ms. Husseini's report was written and published in the Jordan Times in 1994.

The 28-year-old Ms. Husseini has been writing on crime since obtaining her masters degree from Oklahoma City University in the U.S. in 1993.

According to Ms. Husseini, she was motivated to



Rana Husseini

write the feature because of her own horror at an event which took place in May 1994 involving a 16-year-old girl who was murdered by her older brother after her younger brother raped her.

The MEDNEWS prize is designed to encourage young journalists (under 35 years of age) from North Africa and the Middle East region and is a project of the European Union's MED-MEDIA programme.

Ms. Husseini was shortlisted last week along with two Egyptian journalists. Her article was selected from 50 nominations written on a variety of issues.

and for the victims, and my greatest hope is that such articles will one day effect the necessary changes in our society so that some day soon we will not be reading about such horrific behaviour."

"It was the most shocking incident for me," she said. "I can't tell you how it affected me."

Encouraged by her editors, Ms. Husseini decided to write a full feature report on crimes of honour.

"The report won, I think, because the issue is so taboo, so sensitive," said Ms. Husseini.

"I consider this prize a victory for all Arab women

TCC, Siemens sign JD 25m contract to install local line plant networks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Tuesday signed a JD 25 million contract with Siemens, the German electronic firm, and partners for the supply, installation and commissioning of local line plant networks with the capacity of 300,000 subscriber lines, according to a statement by Siemens.

Under the agreement, signed by TCC Director General Walid Dweik and Director of International Sales at Siemens Franz Schmidt, Siemens will supply all the required materials and execute the civil and electric works, install the distribution networks and link the old and the new telephone networks.

The TCC will supply the cables and the telephone posts. The project will be carried out over a period of 36 months, according to the terms of the agreement.

On Oct. 13 Siemens signed a JD 26 million contract with the TCC to install modern digital telephone exchanges in several regions of Jordan.

The TCC said at the time that the 22 exchanges will create a total of 298 circuits serving several regions.

Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Saraireh, who attended the signing ceremony Tuesday, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that under the terms of the new agreement Siemens has contracted two local firms, the Construction Contracting Company and the Kana'an and Boshel contracting firm, as sub-contractors to help carry out the project.

Mr. Saraireh said the project will be financed through a loan provided to Jordan by the European Investment Bank.

The signing ceremony was attended by German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners and Prof. Hans Guenter Danielmayer, member of the managing board of Siemens AG, Chargé d'Affaires Michael Bock and several senior officials of the TCC and the Ministry of Post and Communications.

Mr. Saraireh was last month quoted as saying that Jordan plans to modernise its telecommunications sector by the end of 2008 with an estimated value of \$1.067 billion.

The project aims at modernising the telecommunications network and linking the country with the networks of neighbouring countries.



Telecommunications Corporation Director General Walid Dweik and Siemens Director of International Sales Franz Schmidt sign a JD 25 million contract to install local line plant networks in the Kingdom (Petra photo)

Jordan, Morocco sign agreement to form joint business council

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Tuesday signed an agreement for the establishment of a Jordanian-Moroccan Business Council to organise relations between the private sectors in the two countries.

A JBA statement said the agreement was signed by JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabba'a and the chairman of the Moroccan Economic Organisations Federation, Abdul Rahim Lahjuji.

The Moroccan federation is currently taking part in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit.

Also Tuesday the JBA signed an agreement on the establishment of a joint business council with Indonesia during a reception held by the JBA in honour of the Indonesian Minister of Investments.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Tabba'a and Mr. Ruslinda Furkin, chairman of the private sector association in Indonesia,

who is also here to attend the MENA meetings.

The two agreements raised to 12 the number of joint councils formed by the JBA and other Arab and foreign countries in Europe, Asia and Africa as well as Canada, according to the statement.

These countries are: Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Palestine, Spain, the United Kingdom, France, Romania, Malaysia, Turkey, Indonesia and Canada.

Following the signing of the agreement with Morocco, the Moroccan Minister of Privatisation, Abdul Rahman Saeedi, told a press conference that 114 institutions in Morocco were this year privatised.

He said the Moroccan government soon plans to submit a bill to parliament proposing the privatisation of the communications sector in the country, among other government-controlled businesses.



President of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association Hamdi Tabba'a (centre left) and Chairman of the Moroccan Economic Organisations Federation Abdul Rahim Lahjuji (centre right) meet with other JBA members to discuss the establishment of a Jordanian-Moroccan business council (photo by Shahruri)

Official blames world community for failing to continue to fund UNRWA's services to refugees

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan's representative to the United Nations General Assembly Fourth Committee Fuad Bataineh Tuesday blamed the international community for failing to provide the necessary funds to enable the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

(UNRWA) to continue to provide its services to the Palestinian refugees.

In an address before the UN special political committee, Mr. Bataineh said the shortfall in the UNRWA budget places additional financial burdens on the Jordanian treasury, noting that Jordan provides annually

\$250 million worth of services to the Palestinian refugees, because of UNRWA's failure to meet the refugees' needs.

Mr. Bataineh stressed that Jordan bore the brunt of the plight of the Palestinian people since 1948, saying that it placed financial, economic and social burdens on the Kingdom and put pressure on its infrastructure.

Despite the fact that Jordan hosts 40 per cent of the Palestinian refugees, UNRWA allocates only 20

per cent of its budget to the agency's Jordan field office, with the Kingdom covering the difference.

Mr. Bataineh warned of any cuts in UNRWA services to the refugees, saying that any reductions or curtailment will shake the base of the peace process, because such cuts will mean more suffering and further deterioration of the economic and social conditions of Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Bataineh said Jordan deals with the Palestinian

question as an inseparable question and views the refugees as a complete whole regardless of their whereabouts.

He emphasised the need to address the Palestinian question in light of international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

He stressed the need for UNRWA services until a final solution to the Palestine refugee problem is reached, as part of a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict.



Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Tuesday takes a few puffs from an argileh on the streets of Amman (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

WHAT'S GOING ON

FUND-RAISING FOR EXCAVATION

* Fund-raising event to finance the excavation project in Wadi Faynan, organised by the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History, at the British Embassy Club on Friday (noon - 4 p.m.) (Tel. 84317)

DIALOGUE AND LECTURE

* Dialogue with historian Rox Al 'Uzaizi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, at 6:00 p.m.

* "The Dome of the Rock," by Dr. Beatrice St. Laurent at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 6:00 p.m.

FILM

* "Last Emperor," at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

BANI HAMIDA FALL EXHIBITION

* The Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project presents "Winds of Change" its fall exhibition at the Jerusalem Insurance Company in Shmeisani (Tel. 658696)

EXHIBITIONS

* Metal works by Ammar Khammash at Liwan, off Wadi Saqra Street. Also displaying all kinds of handicrafts. (Tel. 699141)

* Paintings by Salam Kanaan and ceramics by Najwa Arbab and Margaret Tadros at Alia Art Gallery.

* Paintings by Iraqi artist Nazem Hamed at Orfali Gallery.

* Paintings by Iraqi artist Saleh Jumai'i at Ab'dad Gallery.

* Paintings by Shakir Hassan Al-Said at the French Cultural Centre.

* A Retrospective Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Mona Saudi at Darat Al Funun.

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Tamil Tiger rebels panic as Sri Lankan troops approach Jaffna

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas and civilians were fleeing the rebel headquarters of Jaffna Tuesday as Sri Lanka's armed forces approached to within a few miles of the northern town, relief workers and the military said.

A western diplomat charting the advance said one flank of the military assault was within 5-1/2 kilometers of Jaffna town, the strategic and spiritual capital of the rebels' would-be homeland.

"The LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) are moving out of Jaffna town," a senior U.N. source told Reuters.

"The roads (out of Jaffna) are full, jam-packed" with vehicles heading east for Chavakkacheri, on the north side of the Jaffna lagoon, he said, citing reports from the northern rebel-held peninsula.

Relief workers said Tiger radio had made urgent broadcasts telling the people to evacuate as quickly as possible and the people were responding, taking

whatever they could with them.

Fleeing residents said the LTTE had declared a state of emergency. "The word panic is being used to describe what is happening," a relief worker said.

Jaffna residents travelling to the south said more than 5,000 refugees crossed Jaffna lagoon south to Kilinochchi in heavy rain Monday night free of the usual charges paid to the LTTE. There were 11,000 refugees there in total, they said.

The Tiger radio broadcast contradicted a military statement Monday that the LTTE intended to restrict the movement of civilians so they could be armed to fight the advancing troops, the worker said.

The armed forces, two weeks into their biggest offensive against the Tigers in 12 years of war that have taken more than 50,000 lives, said they were involved in clashes just a few miles from Jaffna town.

A senior Sri Lankan gov-

ernment official said Monday that troops should wrest control of Jaffna within a week.

Kusumisri Balapatabendu, secretary to President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, told Reuters in Madras, India, that troops

were about five kilometers from the town.

The military said it had taken Neerveli Junction, near the Uppu Ari lagoon 10 kilometers northeast of Jaffna town centre, "Forcing the terrorists to withdraw further southwards carrying their dead and wounded."

It said it had also captured the main base of the LTTE air wing there, with underground concrete structures, lecture halls, classrooms and bunks.

Parts of an Avro air force transport plane shot down in April were also found nearby.

In a communiqué, the military said artillery fire caused "very heavy (LTTE) casualties". Air attacks on Oct. 17.

At least three army divisions of more than 21,000 men backed by tanks, artillery and air cover have been pushing south from their Palay Air Base towards Jaffna town since Operation Riviresa began

under a bill presented to the British parliament Monday, a minister said.

Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew told parliament that if it approved the bill, which would increase the maximum rate of remission for good behaviour while in jail, he would ensure many offenders left jail within

prison until at least the end of the first decade of the next century.

Sir Patrick said the government was not recognising Irish Republican Army claims that those serving sentences for guerrilla attacks were prisoners of war.

"It makes no concessions to those who falsely claim that those who are convicted of terrorist offences somehow become political prisoners. It makes no concession to terrorism at all," he said.

The bill will enable the penal system in Northern Ireland to make a positive, but proportionate and prudent, response to the continuation of the ceasefires and to the welcome reduction in risk which has been brought about over the past year.

The bill, which is supported by the main opposition parties, is expected to pass through parliament within the next 10 days.

Azeris play down bomb theory on disaster

BAKU (AFP) — The Azerbaijani government played down Tuesday reports that a bomb was responsible for the Baku underground train disaster that killed around 300 people, the worst such incident in history.

State Security Minister Namig Abbasov discounted the bomb theory in Saturday's horrific events, saying victims did not have the wounds caused by explosions.

"If there had been an explosion, then the dead would have had certain wounds, which were not found during the enquiry," he was quoted as saying by Interfax News Agency.

"A spokesman for the prosecutor's office said: "Sabotage remains just one of the possible versions."

Authorities initially blamed the disaster on a fire started by faulty electrics, but a metro investigator said on state television Monday that an explosion ripped the train apart.

For now, the investigation into the disaster is continuing under a criminal negligence statute that covers "violations in the rules of operating transport" but not acts of deliberate sabotage, the prosecutor's office spokesman said.

A harsher statute could be invoked at any time, if investigators determine "officially" that sabotage was the cause, he said.

But Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev himself said Monday he "could not discount" the possibility of sabotage.

State television showed Monday the inside of the burnt-out subway cars with holes in the floor beneath the seats.

Tadzhik Akhmedov, head of the metro's tunnel equipment service, said the holes 1,700 degrees Celsius (3,092 degrees Fahrenheit) to melt the steel, the expert, who would not give his name, said.

Investigators have said that the burning plastic in the subway cars gave off toxic fumes.

A crime expert quoted by Turan News Agency said an ordinary fire could not have caused the catastrophe and he described the fumes that poisoned many of the victims as having foreign military characteristics.

The wagons were twisted by the heat and it takes 1,700 degrees Celsius (3,092 degrees Fahrenheit) to melt the steel, the expert, who would not give his name, said.

The holes in one of the wagons meant that a double layer of floor and a sheet of asbestos had been punc-

tured, he added.

"It can not be the result of a technical malfunction or a fire," he said.

An Azeri journalist in Baku who asked not to be named said that same see the new terrorism theory as an attempt by some authorities to dodge the blame for negligence.

"If it is a terrorist act, that explains everything. Otherwise somebody will have to take the responsibility," the journalist said.

The investigating commission is not scheduled to publish its report for another 10 to 15 days, the prosecutor's office spokesman said.

This means that the report will coincide roughly with parliamentary elections scheduled for Nov. 12.

Two other subway disasters last year in Baku, which together claimed 28 lives, were both blamed on terrorist bombers.

The holes in one of the wagons meant that a double layer of floor and a sheet of asbestos had been punc-

tured, he added: "It's total chaos here. There's no security left."

Camps are controlled by Hutu extremists who scare refugees from going to Rwanda.

Just when voluntary repatriations were picking up thanks to the threat of expulsions, Zaire's strongman Mobutu Sese Seko declared he did not agree to a policy of forced deportations.

Zaire early this month

ordered refugees to stay out of Goma town and slapped a night-time curfew in the region. But U.N. officials said the measures were not being implemented.

On Monday, Goma's pot-holed streets were full of refugees working here. The main road to nearby Mugunga camp was clogged with the usual traffic of cars full of Rwandans coming to Goma.

Japanese authorities and go on trial on Nov. 7.

Governor Masahide Ota of Okinawa, reacting to the rape case, has vowed not to sign new land-lease contracts required to maintain U.S. bases on the island 1,600 kilometers south of Tokyo unless the American presence there is reduced.

Mr. Perry told reporters the United States was willing to consider that, but "We are not proposing, we are not considering reducing the total number of troops in Japan."

Japanese and U.S. officials are racing to settle the storm of protest on Okinawa against the U.S. military presence there.

The three servicemen have been turned over to

Aid workers pull out of Zaire camps after mine blast

GOMA, Zaire (R) — At least two Western relief agencies have suspended operations in a Rwandan refugee camp and villages in eastern Zaire after an American aid worker lost both legs in a mine blast, agency officials said Tuesday.

Officials of the Irish aid agency Goaf and the Italian agency Coopi told Reuters they pulled out of Kibumba refugee camp and villages around Goma respectively after the blast near the camp Sunday.

56-year-old Marianne Holtz, with the American Refugee Committee (ARC), had both legs amputated below the knee and suffered severe head injuries after her car overran a mine planted on the main road near the vast Kibumba camp.

The volatile Goma region in eastern Zaire is home to 700,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees who fled in fear of retribution for last year's

genocide there of up to a million members of the minority Tutsi tribe and Hutu moderates.

The genocidal killings followed the assassination of Rwanda's Hutu military强人 Juvenal Habyarimana.

Angry Habyarimana followers, mainly his Personal Guard and Interahamwe (those who fight together) militia, took up arms and hunted down Tutsis and moderate Hutus blamed for his death.

Joel Boutroue head of the U.N. refugee agency in Goma, said aid workers had been advised to keep travel to camps to a minimum but there were no plans for evacuation.

But they could pull out of the camps if blasts continue and worsening security could hit U.N. repatriation efforts, Mr. Boutroue told Reuters.

Zaire blames the million refugees for worsening insecurity and ecological

damage and wants them out by the end of 1995.

Sunday's blast was the latest in a campaign of mine and grenade attacks which started following the resumption of U.N. repatriations after Zaire expelled 15,000 refugees in August.

The attacks have been a number of Western relief agencies and killed five Zaireans and wounded over 20 people so far.

Western aid workers and U.N. diplomats in Goma said they believed the violence was the work of Zaireans trying to manufacture a crisis to scare the refugees into leaving.

"We think the Zairean military is planting the mines because it wants refugees to go," a U.N. official said.

Mr. Boutroue said it was not known who planted the mine.

Renato Cibrario, an Italian businessman in Goma whose restaurant was the target of a grenade attack

on Nov. 7.

President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

U.S. officials travelling with Mr. Perry said privately that any shift of American troops from Okinawa to other areas of Japan could be expensive for Tokyo at a time when military spending is already high in Japan.

The United States agreed last week to make at least one major change in the so-called status of forces agreement with Japan. In the future it will turn over American servicemen to Japanese authorities for questioning even before they are indicted on such serious crimes as rape and murder.

The Burmese military

Perry: Rape case must not 'poison' U.S.-Japan ties

TOKYO (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry Tuesday expressed deep sorrow for the alleged rape of a schoolgirl by three U.S. soldiers on Okinawa, but said it must not "poison" security ties between Tokyo and Washington.

Arriving for talks with Japanese leaders on the crisis, Mr. Perry said the United States would consider any proposals to cut the 26,000 U.S. troops on Okinawa, but insisted that overall American troop strength in Japan must remain at 46,000.

"The key messages that I hope to leave with our Japanese allies is that the U.S.-Japan relationship is an absolute key to security

and stability in Asia and that nobody benefits from that... more than Japan," he told reporters flying with him from Washington.

"While we are deeply sorry for the suffering of the schoolgirl and her family, we cannot let this poison our entire relationship," he said of last month's incident.

Mr. Perry told reporters the United States was willing to consider that, but "We are not proposing, we are not considering reducing the total number of troops in Japan."

Japanese and U.S. officials are racing to settle the storm of protest on Okinawa against the U.S. military presence there.

The three servicemen have been turned over to

Japanese authorities and go on trial on Nov. 7.

Governor Masahide Ota of Okinawa, reacting to the rape case, has vowed not to sign new land-lease contracts required to maintain U.S. bases on the island 1,600 kilometers south of Tokyo unless the American presence there is reduced.

Mr. Perry meets Defence Minister Seishiro Eto and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono Wednesday to discuss the storm of protest on Okinawa against the U.S. military presence there.

The three servicemen have been turned over to



LIFE ON BOARD THE SHUTTLE: Space shuttle Columbia mission specialist Michael Lopez-Alegria (right) videotapes fellow mission specialist Catherine Coleman (left) as she works in the U.S. Microgravity Laboratory aboard the shuttle Columbia and her seven-person crew are on a 16-day scientific mission (AFP photo)

Mayhew says Northern Irish prisoners may be freed in weeks

LONDON (R) — More than 90 people serving

sentences in Northern Ireland for guerrilla offences could be released by Christmas under a bill presented to the British parliament Monday, a minister said.

Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew told parliament that if it approved the bill, which would increase the maximum rate of remission for good behaviour while in jail, he would ensure many offenders left jail within

Commons.

Asked by an MP when the bill would take effect, Sir Patrick said: "It will be the intention of the government to bring this act into force, if it receives the approval of the House, as soon as practicable, and in time for Christmas of this year."

The bill reverses a decision taken in 1989, at the height of guerrilla violence in the province, to cut the maximum rate of remission of a prison sentence to one third from one half.

Sir Patrick said if it began to operate in early December, more than 90 of the 471 prisoners to whom it applied would leave prison in time for Christmas, and a further 98 would be released early in 1996.

However, rejecting the idea that the bill amounted to an amnesty, he added: "Many of those who have been sentenced for the most heinous offences would still remain in

prison until at least the end of the first decade of the next century."

Sir Patrick said the government was not recognising Irish Republican Army claims that those serving sentences for guerrilla attacks were prisoners of war.

"It makes no concessions to those who falsely claim that those who are convicted of terrorist offences somehow become political prisoners. It makes no concession to terrorism at all," he said.

"The bill will enable the penal system in Northern Ireland to make a positive, but proportionate and prudent, response to the continuation of the ceasefires and to the welcome reduction in risk which has been brought about over the past year."

The bill, which is supported by the main opposition parties, is expected to pass through parliament within the next 10 days.

Mrs. Dole takes leave from Red Cross to campaign for husband

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elizabeth Dole is taking a year's leave as president of the American Red Cross to join her husband's presidential campaign. She said Monday she will reclaim her job even if Sen. Bob Dole is elected president.

That would make the former labour and transportation secretary the first lady to work full time outside the White House.

Camps are controlled by Hutu extremists who scare refugees from going to Rwanda.

Just when voluntary repatriations were picking up thanks to the threat of expulsions, Zaire's strongman Mobutu Sese Seko declared he did not agree to a policy of forced deportations.

Zaire early this month

ordered refugees to stay out of Goma town and slapped a night-time curfew in the region. But U.N. officials said the measures were not being implemented.

But they could pull out of the camps if blasts continue and worsening security could hit U.N. repatriation efforts, Mr. Boutroue told Reuters.

Zaire blames the million refugees for worsening insecurity and ecological

damage and wants them out by the end of 1995.

Sir Patrick said that same see the unpaid leave from her \$200,000-a-year job takes effect this week. The president's salary is also \$200,000 a year,

Jordan Times

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Success over troubled water

OF ALL the important regional issues dealt with at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which concluded successfully last night, water appeared to be the most pressing since it is the lifeline to all economic planning and development both at the national and regional levels. Not surprisingly, the World Bank drew attention to this major problem in the course of the conference when its vice president warned that unless the countries of the Middle East and North Africa paid more attention to solving it, all efforts for regional development would come to naught.

We find the World Bank proposal to convene a Middle East and North Africa summit on water next year a very valuable and timely contribution. There are dire facts which should shock us all into action. Seven out of 16 states in this part of the world are already using 100 per cent of their renewable water resources. Eight use less than 500 cubic metres of water per capita annually, a watershed point below which water use would become dangerously acute. Unless something is done about this side of the problem, within the next 30 years, most of the countries in the two regions would cross this critical point.

Where we take exception to the World Bank ideas is over some of its recommendations for easing the burden especially when it suggests that less water should be diverted for agricultural use. The Bank estimates that 90 per cent of all regional water is being used for agriculture and proposes therefore that agricultural production be curtailed until water can be used more efficiently and priced higher to discourage waste. We can all be supportive of the call for a more efficient use of water by, for example, the deployment of drip irrigation methods and by reasonably hiking its price. But to suggest that the countries concerned should sacrifice their strategic food needs in order to ensure their strategic water needs would be tantamount to solving one problem by creating another.

The World Bank's panacea in this regard rests on the hard economic fact that agriculture consumes a lot of the available water but contributes only 15-20 per cent of the gross domestic product. Yet we all know that efficient farming and the establishment of an agricultural industry, for example, can be just as valuable to gross national product of a country as any other industrial production. Besides, not all countries are endowed with the necessary natural resources or the sophisticated technology to opt for non-agricultural industrial production instead of an agricultural one.

We can think of other ways to deal with the water crisis head-on. Regional understandings and cooperation can lead very important support to the efforts to solve the water aspect of regional development. That is why we have multilateral talks emanating out of the ongoing peace process to resolve the problem. We have not exhausted discussions on these issues yet and many of us are pinning high hopes on them to settle part of the problem, at least. Desalination of sea water is still a viable economic option that cannot be ruled out. Last, but not least, and by its own admission, the Bank says that half of all municipal water was being wasted because of water leakage. This is obviously an area where the Bank and the donor countries can lend valuable support. There are also some water resources that have yet to be tapped. Investment in this field can also be money well spent.

No matter where the answer lies, though, the World Bank was right in raising the issue of water so forcefully and effectively at the summit.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily demanded that the Jordanian government be more daring in its dealings with the United States and that the Kingdom should enjoy the same benefits offered by Washington to Egypt and Israel for signing their peace treaties. It is true that peace is very beneficial to all parties in the Middle East region but this peace in which Jordan is involved is an American-sponsored peace and the United States ought to offer the parties involved in it something concrete, said Tareq Masarweh who added that although the Kingdom does not aspire to get \$3 billion in annual aid like Israel has been receiving since its conclusion of the peace treaty with Cairo. Nothing should prevent Jordan from announcing that it is not satisfied with what it is getting as dividends of peace and the Kingdom should not be coerced into submission to Washington's will, demanded the writer. Referring to an address at the Amman summit by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown urging the private sector to invest in Jordan's projects, the writer said it was doubtful that the private sector would be interested in infrastructure services which is the duty of the state which in turn should be handled by the U.S. administration, financially and technically, to carry out such projects. He said that the United States could at least offer Jordan preferential treatment allowing its goods free access into the American market.

A WRITER in Al Dustour said the Arab League secretary general had uttered eloquent and beautiful words before the Amman economic summit when he called for coordination among Arab countries at the economic and political levels so that the Arab Nation could become strong again and secure the liberation of its occupied lands including Jerusalem. If Dr. Esmat Abdul Maguid wants this to be done it is his duty to take the first step as the league's chief and it is his responsibility to take the initiative in preventing the Arab economies from falling under the hegemony of the Israeli economy, said Taher Al Adwan. Liberating the Arab lands goes hand in hand with liberating the Arab countries' economies, and the Arab League should find the right mechanism to achieve that goal, the writer demanded.

The vertical vs the horizontal: National security depends on well-being of neighbours

The following statement by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was made at the dinner party for the participants in the MENA summit hosted by His Royal Highness on Monday evening:

THE ACHIEVEMENTS in the last two days are largely due to the goodwill and generosity of all those who have participated in this gathering, and in building peace and prosperity, it is self-evident that we have to redouble our efforts to make up for lost time. But provided the will is there the effort is less demanding and more rewarding. I know that what lies ahead is a great deal of hard work. But, unlike the previous phase, such hard work is of a very satisfying and rewarding nature. We should not respond to sceptics by attempting or pretending to take easy short cuts, for they do not exist and I think that in building a sound foundation that they should not exist.

The key question is not: "What has been achieved or delivered as a peace dividend during the last year or the last month or the last week or the last two days?" The important question to consider is: "How are changes in the regional map inducing each and every nation, and every people in the MENA area, to reassess its national agenda?"

A meaningful new agenda for the Middle East should include two basic dimensions. Firstly, a redefinition of "national security." And secondly, a nurturing of a "conversation" or dialogue within the region, and between the region and the outside world. In reality these two dimensions are closely linked.

In talking about redefining security, my purpose is not to evoke a theoretical or academic debate. But there is an urgent need for all of us to reassess the relation of security between states (or what has been termed as "vertical security"), and security within states (or "horizontal security"). In the past, many in our region assumed that it was possible to address the first while ignoring the

second. Today, it is becoming abundantly clear that in our small neighbourhood in the Middle East, security between states is significantly dependent on what goes on within states.

Therein lies the point of departure for redefining and broadening the understanding of national security. When I look at the contribution of Merrill Lynch, Standard & Poor's, and Moody's, and I am described as hopeful, I regard it as a great blessing. When I am described in terms of positive expectation I begin to feel more secure. The prosperity of each nation is ultimately dependent on the well-being of its neighbours — that is the business we are engaged in — the well-being of our peoples and our neighbours. Peace treaties can address "vertical security" or relations between states but it is in the joint effort at peace building among our peoples that is the way of promoting security within each of our societies lies.

Redefining national security has in fact been initiated. We can see Israelis taking an active interest in the well-being of Palestinians in Gaza, Nablus, Jenin, and Jericho. Similarly, Palestinians are concerned with the security of Israel within Israel. We are approaching the point when the people of Beirut, Damascus, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Amman and Cairo take an active interest in each other's welfare and prosperity. And if it is not out in the open, surely it is there on the airwaves with all the Internet, with all the teledemocracy. I cannot believe effectively that what is happening here today is not being watched further afield. But effective leadership is about filtering such concerns to the grassroots. In the new agenda, Human Resource Development at the regional level has to

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan addresses guests to the Amman summit Monday evening as Palestine National Authority President Yasser Arafat (first from right) and

Mauritanian Prime Minister Mohammad Wild Bu Bakr (second from right) look on (Petra photo)

replace the arms race as a practical means for promoting security. The ultimate objective is the dismantling of barriers to arrive at a zone of shared prosperity.

This takes me to the second pillar of the new agenda: the promotion of a conversation among the different cultures. At the starting point, what I would like to emphasise is the importance of delinking Islam and international terrorism. It goes without saying that we should all oppose terrorism in all its forms and whatever the source. An eminent scholar has aptly said that the issue of terrorism is fraught with many confusions, purveyed by people including academics who see their contribution as preying on the anxieties of others. He added, (and I quote): "there are many terrorists who are not Muslims, and the history of modern political terror, from the Fezzanis, the Armenian Dashnak and the opponents of the Czars onwards, suggests that terrorism has a rather more ecumenical origin... Most acts of terrorism are committed in situations of communal violence."

Acts of violence associated with Muslim immigrants in Europe and elsewhere are in reality an example of communal violence. They have nothing to do with Islam as such. They relate more to racial conflict and socio-economic stagnation. Within the MENA region itself, and according to the World Bank, GNP per capita during 1980-1993 has declined at an average rate of 2.4 per cent per annum. In contrast in the high income economies it increased annually by 2.2 per cent. In Jordan, we have managed to reverse previous negative trends. Per capita income increased since 1992 at an average annual rate of 4 per cent.

inter-communal confrontation that will undermine the peace being concluded among governments. That is why Jordan has been promoting inter-religious dialogue and intercultural, intercivilisational dialogue through the last two decades. Since our meeting in Casablanca last year, a pioneering step has been undertaken in this regard in establishing this dialogue, not least of all in the hearts of our interlocutors in Brussels at the EU, and I thank those interlocutors.

I look forward with you in continuing this process through Barcelona and beyond and I hope these two pillars of this agenda to which I have referred will effectively ensure that we are thinking not only of material benefit but of moral uplift, not only of a commitment which is pragmatic, but a commitment which is ethical and motivated by our concern for the greatest good for the greatest number. I thank you all for your kind attention and your patience and for those obsessed with short-term financial calculations, one may say: what value do you attach to one human life saved whether Muslim, Jewish or Christian.

A constructive dialogue between the different faiths is an essential component of the required new agenda. Otherwise we may easily regress into a new form of

LETTERS

20th Anniversary

Old, new readers value serious, credible newspaper

To the Editor:

I READ with great interest your special issue of Oct. 26, 1995. Congratulations on the 20th anniversary of the Jordan Times.

Ernesto Gomez Abascal,
Ambassador of Cuba
(to Jordan and Syria),
Damascus

MANY CONGRATULATIONS to the Jordan Times on its 20th anniversary. I wish its staff further progress and success; we note with much satisfaction the newspaper's tradition of recruiting and training new journalists who subsequently become a model of credibility and professionalism to Jordanian colleagues. May the Jordan Times continue to stand out as a distinguished media institution.

Editor and staff,
Al Ordan (weekly)
newspaper,
Amman.

YOUR NEWSPAPER represents a shining side of Jordan, which aspires to democracy, progress and enlightenment. I wish that our Arabic-language newspapers enjoyed the same ethical and professional journalistic courage as the Jordan Times. On your 20th anniversary, and on behalf of all my colleagues here, I wish you and your staff further success in playing your highly positive role in the Jordanian media.

Hani Hourani,
Director General,
Al Urdan Al Jadid
Research Centre,
Amman.

TWENTY YEARS of growth, success and achievement. What more would one expect from a serious newspaper known throughout its history for its truthfulness and credibility? Reading the "elegant" Jordan Times almost everyday has introduced two elements into my life. Reading has become an enjoyable habit, and the Jordan Times itself, has become an essential element in my daily routine. Beyond any doubt, and despite all the tools of suppression which "some" had tried to use against the Jordan Times during certain periods of its existence, our journal will continue its march towards becoming "The Times" of the Arab World.

Said D. Khalifeh,
Amman.

THE JORDAN Times is one of the main sources of information about Jordan. It is unique in the sense that it carries articles that other newspapers do not carry. This is due in part to the nature and education of the Jordan Times staff, who dig for the information, verify its sources and write about it objectively. Another reason for the good performance of the newspaper is that it has a higher margin of freedom as an English daily. Despite its limited circulation, which is much less than that of its Arabic sister Al Rai daily, for example, it is of great value for researchers, scholars and the foreign community in Jordan.

Despite the difficulties posed by the Press and Publications Law, the Penal Code and the law banning the revealing of state secrets and documents, and the restrictions imposed by the executive power on the flow of information to people, the Jordan Times was often able to overcome such difficulties. We wish the Jordan Times every progress and prosperity because we know that you sometimes had to walk a tight rope in order to win press freedom.

Abdullah Hammoudeh,
Hammoudeh Advertising
Agency,
Amman.

ALLOW ME to extend my greetings to the staff of the Jordan times for their strenuous efforts in producing a paper that is credible, authentic and trustworthy for so many people. Many acquaintances of mine praise the way news items are edited and presented. However, I know for certain that you will always accept criticism, especially when it is well intended. To begin with, you have a problem in the erratic distribution of the Jordan Times. Moody distributors sometimes forget to bring it to the bookshop where I usually buy it. "Forgetting" is an excuse they use but it is not justified. So I call on you to put more pressure on the distributors to do their job or else design a course for them on how their memories can be improved. The second point I would like to raise is on whether Dr. Ahmad Majdoub's articles could be translated and used in an Arabic daily like Al Ra'i. Dr. Majdoub's articles deal with important issues in the educational field and he is worth translating into Arabic for the benefit of ordinary Jordanian readers. I am ready to do such a job if Dr. Majdoub is interested and nobody volunteers to do it.

Khader Al Atrash,
P. O. Box 410647,
Amman 11141.

THE JORDAN Times qualifies for felicitations and commendations for bringing current news at the doorsteps of its readers and also "sensation-

al news" in its "Column Eight" on the back page. During my three years as a diplomat at the Pakistani Embassy in Amman, I thoroughly enjoyed reading the Jordan Times. Your claim "to celebrate not only because the J.T. has survived against, at times, insurmountable odds, but also because the newspaper has achieved a decent level of respectability, maturity and reliability at this very tender age" is fully justified. As it is said that "it grows as it goes," the Jordan Times has indeed over the years added many feathers to its hat. However, there is one point which I would like to bring to your attention, and which was shared by some of my colleagues in the diplomatic circle to Amman. It is that the Jordan Times is uneven — I would not say partial — in reporting events of a country vis-a-vis its neighbours. I hope you get my message and I would not like to contest or elaborate on this, and leave it to your judgement. I would like to congratulate you once again for bringing out an excellent newspaper and not being the "Izvestia" of Jordan. As I miss my friends and colleagues in Jordan, I really do miss reading the Jordan Times daily. The 20th anniversary of your newspaper is an occasion for which you amply qualify to celebrate and rejoice.

Shaukat Ali Mukadam,
First Secretary/Head of
Chancery,
Embassy of Pakistan,
Baghdad.

MAY I take this opportunity to congratulate the Jordan Times on its 20th anniversary. Despite having only been in the country for less than a month, I am already an avid reader and reader for your paper first thing in the morning to get the latest economic, world and local news.

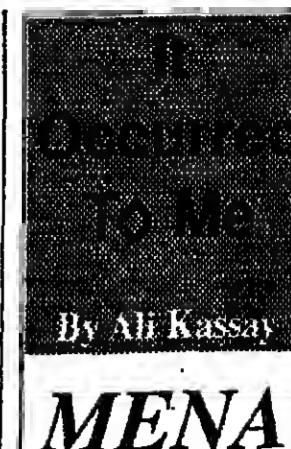
Hector Low,
Manager, Language Centre,
The British Council,
Amman.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to each and every one at the Jordan Times. I cannot believe that 20 years have passed since our friendship started.

Saliba Khouri,
Amman.

KEEP UP the good work. Happy 20th birthday.

Kumar Malhotra,
Marianna Al Far,
BBC office,
Amman.



By Ali Kassay

MENA mania

SO, THE MIDDLE East and North Africa Economic Summit, affectionately called MENA, has come and gone. Already the last stragglers are jumping up and down on their suitcases in a vain attempt to cram in them the vast quantities of literature which, doubtless, will enrich their lives in the long winter evenings ahead.

As we bid farewell to our honourable guests, and life in Amman returns to its normal pace, I would be negligent not to avail myself of this opportunity to address a special word of thanks to that fine body of men and women that made it all possible: Jordanian bureaucrats.

The MENA conference, we remind ourselves, was essentially an exercise designed for the benefit of the private sector. Its objective was to encourage Jordanian businessmen to come out of the closet (or, to be more accurate, to bring their fortunes out of the closet), and to explore with their foreign homologues the prospects of joint ventures that would enrich both parties, and their societies through the much acclaimed trickle down effect. But this does not in any way diminish the credit due to the public sector.

So keen were our bureaucrats to help the Jordanian businessman, that they took it upon themselves to decide for him which projects will be discussed, and with whom. They even spared him the effort of deciding whether to attend the conference or not, by selecting the businessmen that would be present.

Nor were we, as hosts, less attentive to the needs of our guests, who were spared any inconvenience, even the bother of taking a taxi. Instead, according to participants, they had to wait endlessly, each in the bus assigned to him until the vehicle filled up, while other buses were zooming about empty, to unknown destinations, all contributing to one of Amman's most spectacular traffic jams.

However, the most remarkable quality of the Jordanian bureaucrat is his consisteoy, particularly his unsinkable faith in, and unwavering devotion to the infrastructure. The summit allocated vast sums to improving the infrastructure, so that tourists and businessmen would be encouraged to come to Jordan and, having got here, to part with their money. Is there an echo or have we heard this before? Was this not the objective of development plans in the good old decade of the oil boom? In fact, were we not told that this objective has already been realised?

No matter. The exercise was impressive. So much so that I asked a businessman friend of mine: "What was the best thing that you got out of the summit?" His answer reminded me of Hawkeye in the popular TV series MASH. When asked what was the best thing he got out of the army, he answered: "Me!" Apparently, my friend went abroad for the duration of the conference, in order to get some business done.

Settlers punch Hebron schoolgirls

HEBON (AFP) — Israeli settlers punched and slightly injured four Palestinian girls and a woman teacher outside a school in the flashpoint town of Hebron on Tuesday, witnesses said. The fracas erupted at the Cordoba school across from a Jewish settlement in the centre of Hebron. The injured, including four girls aged between 10 and 12, were taken hospital but were not seriously hurt. Settlers had already clashed with pupils last month when a Palestinian flag was raised at the school at the start of the new term. Some 400 Israeli settlers live in the centre of Hebron, home to 120,000 Palestinians.

Demonstrator killed in Gaza

RAFAH (AFP) — A demonstrator was killed and a Palestinian policeman wounded in a clash over the construction of an airport on the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, police and witnesses said. Police moved in to break up a demonstration by several dozen protesters as bulldozers cleared the site. General Abdul Razek Majada, Palestinian security chief, said a demonstrator fired on his men, wounding one of them, Yusef Abu Sema, 21, whose family owns land which is being expropriated for the airport, was shot dead in the ensuing exchange of fire. A witness said that gunmen in a car had fired on the police who shot back.

EU-Israel accord is initialised

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Union (EU) and Israel on Tuesday initialised a research and development accord, completing a broader association agreement already initialised in July, Israeli diplomatic sources said. The accords are expected to be signed at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels on Nov. 20, ahead of the Nov. 27-28 Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona. Under the research and development accord, big-tech Israeli companies may tender contracts in Europe on the same basis as companies based inside the EU's single market.

Egypt arrests son of Brotherhood founder

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police have arrested prominent Muslim Brotherhood member Ahmad Seif Al-Islam Al-Banna, security sources said on Tuesday. They said Mr. Banna, son of Brotherhood founder Hassan Al-Banna and a leading member of the Egyptian Bar Association, was arrested on Monday night at an election rally and detained for questioning. Eighty-two members of the outlawed Brotherhood are already being tried in a Cairo military court on charges that include forming an illegal group, inciting people to revolt against the government, distributing anti-government leaflets, and giving money to fugitive militants and families.

Sweden to expel suspect in bombings

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Sweden decided Tuesday to deport Algerian Islamic fundamentalist Abdul Krim Deche, suspected by France of involvement in the July 25 bombing of an underground train in Paris, the justice ministry announced. But a special cabinet meeting decided that the deportation would not take place until a host country had agreed to take him. The meeting ordered the release of Deche, 39, who was arrested here on Aug. 21, but said he must report three times a week to police. A legal adviser to the justice minister, Lars Nilsson, said the cabinet had decided Deche could not be deported to Algeria because of the civil war there between fundamentalists and the military-backed regime. Sweden has refused a French extradition request for Deche, saying he had an alibi for the bombing at Saint-Michel metro station, central Paris, in which seven people died.

Bomb kills 22 at Iraqi rebel office

ANKARA (AP) — A bomb attack on offices of the main anti-government group in northern Iraq killed at least 22 people Tuesday, the organisation reported. But U.N. guards in the area told the Associated Press they have no confirmation of the attack. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

Rabin wants to nail down borders of future Palestine

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin aims to go into the November 1996 general election with a draft accord on the final borders of a Palestinian entity, an Israeli weekly reported Tuesday.

The army, meanwhile, wants to renegotiate some of the West Bank redeployment maps signed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Jerusalem Report said the prime minister wants to launch negotiations with the self-rule authority on the final status of the Palestinian territories as early as March.

Mr. Rabin's spokeswoman Aliza Goren, contacted by AFP, said she was looking into the report.

The prime minister announced in parliament earlier this month that Israel plans to annex parts of the West Bank, especially around Jerusalem, in the north along the Israeli border, and in the Jordan Valley.

According to the Jerusalem Report, which quoted sources close to the premier, Mr. Rabin hopes an accord in principle on the future Palestinian borders would quash criticism of the West Bank autonomy accord signed on September 28.

The right-wing Likud, running neck-and-neck with Mr. Rabin's Labour in the opinion polls, says the accord will

return Israel to insecure borders of before the 1967 Middle East war.

Apart from borders, final status talks due to open by May also cover the explosive issues of Jerusalem and the fate of Jewish settlements and Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Rabin wants to delay negotiations on the other issues until after the elections but believes PLO fears of a right-wing victory would facilitate an agreement on borders, the Jerusalem Report said.

The prime minister has said the future Palestinian entity would be "less than a state," while the Palestinians insist on a state of their own with annexed east Jerusalem as its capital.

Five years of interim Palestinian autonomy were launched in Gaza and the West Bank enclave of Jericho in May 1994.

Under the Sept. 28 accord, autonomy is to be extended to West Bank towns by the end of this year. Hebron, where 400 Jews live among 120,000 Palestinians, has been ruled a special case and Israeli troops are to stay on.

An Israeli military official revealed Tuesday that the army wanted to renegotiate some of the maps signed with the PLO as part of the West Bank deal.

Chief-of-Staff General Amnon Shachar has detected

militancy and violence.

Ramadan Abdullah Shah, 38, a Gaza-born, Western-educated political science and economics professor, was unanimously elected secretary general of Islamic Jihad two days after the assassination of Shabiqi.

In his first public appearance after his appointment, Mr. Shahal was present at Damasus airport when Shabiqi's body was flown to Syria from Malta.

Mr. Shahal, along with Shabiqi, founded the Islamic Jihad movement in the early 1980s in Gaza. In the mid-1980s, he moved to Britain to continue his academic career before moving to the United States, where he obtained a doctorate in political science and economics and taught.

He was remembered as a fiery preacher in Gaza's mosques before he left for Britain. He left the United States last year and now resides in either Lebanon or Syria.

Islamic Jihad officials said that since Shabiqi's death there was a feeling the movement was rapidly tilting towards violence after months of refraining from attacks in an uneasy truce with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"The truce period with the PNA is over. After months of quiet, the only thing on the movement's mind is revenge," said an Islamic Jihad official.

"I believe we are moving towards armed struggle and militancy."

Mr. Rabin accused Syria of being a major "terrorism" centre and expressed pessimism about chances for a peace-deal before Israeli elections next year.

Mr. Rabin made the charges in an address to a closed-door session of parliament's foreign affairs and defence commission.

Clinton says Ohio talks last chance for Bosnia

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— President Bill Clinton said on Tuesday the Bosnia peace talks that open in Ohio on Wednesday may represent the last chance "to turn the horror of war to the promise of peace."

"We have come to a defining moment in Bosnia," Mr. Clinton said. This is the best chance we've had for peace since the war began. It may be the last chance we have for a very long time. Only the parties to this terrible conflict can end it. The world now looks to them to turn the horror of war to the promise of peace."

"The only way to stop these horrors is to make peace," Clinton said, adding: "We will succeed only if America continues to lead."

The president's message on the importance of U.S. leadership came a day after the U.S. house of representatives voted to require him to seek

several "errors" which emerged when comparing the maps to the reality on the ground, the official told the daily Jerusalem Post.

As examples, the military official said a by-pass road for Jewish settlers crossed a zone which was to be handed over to Palestinian control, like an old Jewish cemetery in Hebron that is to be supervised by Israel.

Mr. Rabin wants to delay negotiations on the other issues until after the elections but believes PLO fears of a right-wing victory would facilitate an agreement on borders, the Jerusalem Report said.

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Mr. Rabin meanwhile warned British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind not to visit the PLO's unofficial headquarters in an East Jerusalem during a forthcoming trip.

"We believe that foreign

personalities who have ministerial rank should not make official visits to the Orient House.

Mr. Rabin, in a statement, said that the PLO's credibility was not good, adding that the Palestinians had been going through hard times after the signing of the Gaza and Jericho deal and later after the Washington agreement because of Israel's delays and procrastinations.

"Israel's behaviour consti-

Shaath lambasts Israeli delays in self-rule expansion and Congress vote on Jerusalem

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Nabil Shaath strongly criticised Israel's attitude vis-a-vis the implementation of its agreements with the Palestinian leadership saying that the Israeli government's behaviour was strange and its conduct unacceptable.

Addressing a press conference on the final day of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, Dr. Shaath said that Israel's credibility was not good, adding that the Palestinians had been going through hard times after the signing of the Gaza and Jericho deal and later after the Washington agreement because of Israel's delays and procrastinations.

"A special relationship is binding the two peoples and this relationship forms a solid foundation for the future after the Palestinians win their full rights and sovereignty over their national soil and after the establishment of an

independent Palestinian state," he said.

On Jerusalem, Dr. Shaath said the future status of the city will be discussed by the Israeli and Palestinian sides in the final stage of negotiations due in May of 1996.

He expressed astonishment over Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' comment on Monday that Israel will never give up the Holy City as its capital or allow its division.

"When the Palestinians entered the negotiations with Israel they received international as well as American guarantees that the Arab city of Jerusalem is regarded as an occupied territory since 1967," Dr. Shaath said.

"We depend on logic, international justice and U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which provide

for the return of all the Palestinian lands occupied since 1967 in addition to the Arab lands in the Golan and Lebanon," he said.

Dr. Shaath said the U.S. Congress' vote to move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was taken to serve election purposes in the United States and aimed at obstructing the peace process. He said that the vote favours Israeli extremists' position.

Dr. Shaath paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for their unique role and participation in the MENA economic summit and said the conference had achieved great results that would reflect very positively on the economies of the region.

crossing 'the borders,' he added, also referring to water, tourism and trade as other areas where an economic con-

solidation made more sense.

"But when it comes to a political solution, I do not believe it is proper for me to comment since it is an issue that has to be negotiated between Jordan and the Palestinians."

Asked whether Israel would "push" for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, Mr. Peres simply asserted: "Israel is not a pushing country, so we shall not push."

The Israeli minister said the fruits of peace would not be felt immediately on the popular level. "It is like an apple tree which takes several years" to bear fruits as opposed to "tomatoes, which take a few months."

Asked how Israel was treating the Jordanian demand for the return of property owned by Jordanians in Jerusalem, now that the two countries have made peace, Mr. Peres referred to the multilateral working groups on refugees and displaced persons and that these groups would deal with the issue.

"It is an issue (in which) both parties have claims," he asserted. "There are lost properties in other Arab countries."

But reminded that the issue was strictly bilateral and that there is no record of any Israeli losing his or her

it is more than just an agreement between two parties," he said, referring to the two countries' joint efforts to raise \$400 million in European assistance for water projects stipulated in the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and other collective moves towards developing bilateral as well as regional cooperation.

Mr. Peres predicted that Jordan's tourism revenue would go up to \$800 million in 1995 and to \$1.2 billion in 1996.

With the Palestinians, he said, the main problem was the "acts of violence."

"If these were to be eliminated, the picture will be totally different. We will not have to have closures of the West Bank and Gaza and we will not have to have harass people...I can see very smooth relations."

Peres: Great contribution

(Continued from page 1)

infringement...the seaport (now that) Jordan is trying to be the centre for the export of phosphates and pita...we have two ports (Aqaba and Eilat) and both are under-employed -- let us have one port."

"Why have two railroads?" he said, referring to Jordan's plans to build a rail network while Israel has relatively good rail system.

The focus on Jordanian territory for such projects, he said, came because "Jordan is a far larger country than Israel. It has nearly 100,000 square kilometres while Israel, with the (occupied) West Bank and Gaza Strip, has only 24,000."

"There are also suggestions that the main station" for the supply of natural gas from Qatar "will be in Jordan," he said. "If Jordan wants to supply gas to Israel, why not?"

"The idea is basically that the forecast is peace, not war," he added. "We don't want to organise our lives as enemies in the future, we are two friendly countries."

Mr. Peres also cited examples of European countries which have utilities for the exclusive use of another and said he did not find any reason why arrangements like that could not be made.

According to Mr. Peres, the geographic proximity among the three would warrant such a relationship.

"Take an issue like electricity," he said. "You cannot keep power from

MENA summit proclaimed a huge success

(Continued from page 1)

It said business leaders at the three-day conference struck deals in the fields of tourism, telecommunications and transport which would promote economic development.

The Yedioh Ahronot daily newspaper said Mr. Shahal relayed orders from Shabiqi who in recent years was based in Damascus, to Islamic Jihad operatives in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Rabin accused Syria of being a major "terrorism" centre and expressed pessimism about chances for a peace-deal before Israeli elections next year.

He was remembered as a fiery preacher in Gaza's mosques before he left for Britain. He left the United States last year and now resides in either Lebanon or Syria.

Islamic Jihad officials said that since Shabiqi's death there was a feeling the movement was rapidly tilting towards violence after months of refraining from attacks in an uneasy truce with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

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Mr. Rabin made the charges in an address to a closed-door session of parliament's foreign affairs and defence commission.

Clinton says Ohio talks last chance for Bosnia

congressional approval for sending U.S. troops to a NATO-led force to police a peace agreement.

Mr. Clinton said he would seek support for the deployment from the Republican-held Congress once a peace agreement is signed but stressed that he was not bound by law to receive congressional authorisation.

The Republican-led lower chamber voted 315 to 103 Monday for the non-binding resolution requiring approval for deploying U.S. troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Clinton, who has committed to sending some 20,000 troops as part of the 60,000-strong force, said he will meet with leaders of both parties Wednesday to discuss the U.S. role in ending the war.

The president spoke to reporters surrounded by his advisors who briefed him ahead of the talks with presi-

together for the first time in Amman Israeli and Arab businessmen who interacted well in the conference, participants said.

One of the major projects was an indirect agreement by Qatar to U.S. Enron corporation.

"There was the beginning of many joint ventures of great importance," said Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Emphasised during the summit was the need to liberalise economies and for a

regional tourism board will be set up by the public and private sector.

The regional business council will act as a coordinating body to promote cross-border cooperation and trade in the private sector.

A MENA summit executive secretariat in Rabat was made permanent.

"There is a lot of interest in the projects Jordan had presented," Ministry of Trade and Industry Ali Abu Ragheb told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Jordan presented 27 projects worth \$3.5 billion and the private sector 136 projects worth \$1.2 billion to the conference.

Mr. Abu Ragheb said the "enormous effort" Jordan had made in modernising its economy and introducing legislative reforms had been well received by the international community.

The minister told the Jordan Times that Jordan had done "what it could" to encourage investors who are starting to see the region as a place to invest in the King.

Mr. Abu Ragheb cautioned against high expectations of immediate results from the conference, pointing out that many of the projects were medium and long-term ventures that will take time to materialise.



Mideast summit makes contacts, not contracts

AMMAN (R) — A year after the ground-breaking Casablanca conference the question on the agenda of this year's Amman economic summit was: "Is the Middle East open for business?"

Governments, led by the United States, took the podium and replied with a confident "yes." Private investors, who are expected to fund future prosperity, gave a polite "not quite yet."

The conference was billed as a way to attract investment to a potentially wealthy region, stabilised by U.S.-driven efforts to bring peace

between Israelis and Arabs.

But the legacy of 50 years of conflict between Arab and Jew, inter-Arab rivalry, deadhand economic management, oppressive one-man rule and rampant arms-spending in many states is a hard one to shake off.

"Many of my business colleagues are sceptical," Percy Barnevik, president of power giant ABB Asea Brown Boveri said of the region. "They see it as unstable, dangerous."

"It has been disappointing to see the slow pace of money coming to Palestine — a lot

of talk and little action," he said.

Other businessmen too said little had changed in the year since Casablanca where Israelis rubbed shoulders openly for the first time with Arab investors.

"The region cannot be said to be open in a very serious way," said William Ryrie, vice-president of Baring Holding Company. He cited barriers to investment from wars, anti-market policies and red tape.

Israel, the regional economic superpower with a per capita GDP on average 10

times that of its neighbours, was opening up and benefiting from the peace process, investors said.

"We have an image problem," agreed Palestinian businessman Hani Abu Dayeh.

"The purpose of this summit is to market the region in general not specific projects. We have to get the attention of guys who can invest anywhere ... it is not only money we need but management skills, markets."

Governments presented a wishlist of mammoth infrastructure projects topping \$50

billion in a region that garnered only \$1 billion of the \$65 billion of capital floated into emerging markets in the peak year of 1993.

Many of the 1,000 businessmen said at the summit's off-the-record "networking breakfasts" and "cocktail breaks" that they did not need such a gathering to clinch deals.

They said most contracts announced at the summit such as a \$50 million Jordanian-Israeli chemical joint venture were known weeks in advance. Other announcements were about

agreements in principle rather than firm deals.

"The U.S. is very results-oriented," commented one U.S. businessman on Washington's efforts to promote the summit. "They have to have something to put in the showcase. The Amman declaration and the whole summit was stitched up in advance."

Wasbiogton and its closest Middle East ally, made much of the three "achievements" since Casablanca — agreements to set up regional tourism and business councils and a Middle East

development bank.

The U.S. has forged ahead with the bank despite opposition from European and Arab Gulf states.

"We do not need a bank,"

said a senior Gulf official who asked not to be identified. He said Gulf countries, allies of the West, had to attend the summit but believed the region's politics should be set straight before its economics.

Holdouts Syria and Lebanon had to be brought in to the peace process for economic development to work.

The U.S. believes the region cannot wait and needs to

bolster its fledgling peace now through economics.

Israel too does not want im-

poverished and potentially

unstable neighbours, even

though it left no doubt it sees

its economic future based on

trade with high-technology

economies in Europe and

North America.

In the end, the summit was

more about contacts than

contracts, about economic

dreams rather than realities.

But even the Gulf official

acknowledge that swapping

business cards was a start to

overcoming half a century of

antagonism and isolation.

Arab, Israeli businessmen ready to establish ties

AMMAN (AP) — Arab businessmen are breaking a taboo on dealing with Israel by flocking to lunches and seminars hosted by Israeli officials at the Middle East economic summit underway here.

In the corridors of the Royal Cultural Centre, the main site for the three-day summit, Arab executives wearing traditional white headresses and robes exchange business cards and shake hands with their Israeli counterparts.

Other crowd an information desk set up by the Israeli embassy and grab handouts detailing regional projects presented by the Israeli government and private sector.

"This is something we could not have dreamed of a few months ago," said Israeli Agriculture Minister Ya'akov

"We know it will take

some time. We hope it won't take long because we, as businessmen, are ready to start business immediately," he added.

But until peace becomes official between Qatar and Israel, businessmen from his country will only be able to make preliminary contacts, or will have to negotiate through third parties, he said.

Mosheh Hananel, an Israeli tour operator, said he and his Gulf Arab counterparts are ready to begin organising tours that would take Israelis to the Gulf and send Gulf Arabs to Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem.

"Tour operators in Israel and in the Gulf are ready to start business, but we're waiting for a political decision," said Mr. Hananel, director of Galilee Tours.

The Gulf region is a potential market for Israeli products, know-how and technology," said Rashid Awida Al Thani, a former chairman of Qatar's state-owned General Petroleum Co.

"The evolution of infrastructure throughout the region is important to economic development

and to seek private sector funding for development projects, the French minister also observed that the role of governments should not be opposed.

"The European Union is one of the main donors in the world, providing the main bulk of financial contributions" to developing countries, she said.

Ms. Idrac also referred to France's assistance to Jordan through the Paris Club.

Currently Jordan's debt to France tops \$600 million. Last year the French government cancelled \$35 million. Negotiations are going on between the two governments over the conversion of a further \$75 million into equity swap.

With reference to the proposed establishment of a regional bank, to which Saudi Arabia and the European Union have voiced opposition, Ms. Idrac said that while France was not opposed to it, her government viewed a creation of a fund for the mobilisation of money for large development projects to be a better formula.

"European countries and France in particular have proposed the gathering of finances in a fund as the best option" for the region, she said.

During 1994 and 1995, France had organised five technical conferences on transportation as part of its support for REDWG and the peace process, said Ms. Idrac.

The declared objective of these discussions was to facilitate the free movement of people, trade and capital within the former West Germany.

Investors who acquired privatised firms promised to invest a total of 217 billion

marks including 163 billion marks which were guaranteed in writing.

From 1990 to 1994, investment commitments exceeded targets by 42 per cent, a trend which was expected to continue, the BVS said.

The report also said east German firms were handicapped by their ex-

communist image which prevented them becoming established in the west. At the same time, they are only slowly reconquering the markets they used to dominate in eastern Europe.

the BVS which is charged with supervising the pro-

cesses of privatised industries, took over in January from the Treuhand which sold off 15,000 firms in record time though it left a debt of 256 billion marks used to mod-

ernise companies before pri-

vatisation.

In 1995, BVS expenditure, initially put at 17 billion

marks, is expected to be two to three billion less than this figure due to an improvement

in the performance of those

firms it is still committed to

help, BVS Chairman Heinrich Honef was quoted as saying.

Summary of thematic session

The economic climate

• Abdulfatif Al-Hamad, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Kuwait

• Jasim Al-Mansoori, Arab Monetary Fund, Abu Dhabi

• Stanley Fischer, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC

• Nessim Kirdar, Investcorp, Bahrain and Great Britain

• Ferdinand Piëch, Volkswagen, Germany

• Paul Volcker, Former Chairman, Federal Reserve Board, USA

Moderator Basel Jardach, Minister of Finance of Jordan

This plenary session on Monday morning marked the shift from politics to concrete business in the summit's agenda.

The top business leaders recommended a set of concrete measures necessary to unlock the region's immense potential. Key to these measures is the role of the private sector as the engine of economic growth.

To strengthen the economics of peace, the business leaders stressed the need to orient the economies of the region, which are among the most protected in the world, towards globalisation and an export-driven growth strategy.

"Tariffs and other barriers to trade slow down the development of the region," said Ferdinand Piëch.

Panelists stressed the need to increase foreign direct investment in a region currently bypassed by international investment flows, receiving only one-third of one per cent of foreign investment to emerging markets. In this respect, Stanley Fischer stressed the need to reduce budget deficits and to increase competition in the financial sector by reducing entry barriers to financial markets.

Ferdinand Piëch drew attention to the important role of small and medium-sized companies from the region as partners of global players like Volkswagen. His own company produces wiring harness in Turkey, car components in Tunisia and electric parts in Morocco.

Panelists agreed that integration needs to be increased in a region whose current intraregional trade amounts to a mere nine per cent of total exports. By integrating with their neighbours, countries in the region can profit from regional synergies. Drawing from the strength of each country, the benefit to all can be maximised," said Nessim Kirdar.

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IMF says Middle East economies must liberalise

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Monday urged Middle Eastern states to deregulate and liberalise if they were to benefit from the global economy.

"Domestic deregulation and the liberalisation of trade and payments regimes are two sides of the coin... some Middle East and North African countries... are among the most protectionist in the world," Fischer, first deputy managing director of the IMF, told delegates attending the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit in Amman.

He said it was critical for the region's future to introduce key trade measures to reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers, if it was to benefit from a trend towards more globalisation and integration of world markets.

Mr. Fischer said Middle East peace accords between former enemies "had prompted businessmen to begin transforming the economic possibilities created by peace into reality."

The region was potentially rich — it had six per cent of the world's population, a wealth of highly-skilled workers and a GDP of over \$600 billion, Mr. Fischer said.

"To reach this potential in this region, as in the rest of the world, the emphasis must be on a private sector led, outward oriented economic strategy, with a more dynamic export performance and greater integration into the world economy at its core," he explained.

"Unfortunately economies in many countries in the region are operating far below their potential," he added.

The IMF official cited the success of East Asia and signs of progress in eastern Europe.

Mr. Fischer, however, cited "real economic progress" in the region over the past year that had contributed to a welcome improvement in the economic climate of the region.

He said Saudi Arabia, which has cut budget spending, had made "important moves to increase non-oil revenues and rationalise expenditure..."

Trade accords concluded between the Palestinians,

Jordan and Israel, should help increase regional trade, he added.

He said the EU's "Mediterranean Basin" policy was contributing to the region's "adjustment and reform."

The EU already has trade accords with Israel and Tunisia and is engaged in partnership talks with Egypt, Jordan and Morocco.

The IMF official, had special praise for the Palestinian Authority (P.A.) ruining self-rule areas, for improving its "budgetary performance and progress in building economic institutions." The P.A. had been criticised in the past for mismanagement.

"In Amman, Israel presented large infrastructure projects and called on the private sector to mobilise, while on the ground Palestinian businessmen cannot move around and exports are blocked," said Mr. Knudsen, the World Bank's permanent representative in the Palestinian territories.

Mr. Knudsen added the closure came at a time when the Palestinian gross national product was falling and unemployment in Gaza had risen to 50 per cent.

But the Palestinians had also succeeded in boosting revenue to an estimated \$380 million this year, \$180 million more than expected, he said.

They had also restricted their budget deficit to \$100 million, half the amount forecast.

World Bank criticises closure of W. Bank, Gaza

AMMAN (AFP) — The World Bank hit out Tuesday at Israel's partial closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip which it said was a serious obstacle to Palestinian economic growth.

"This measure throws into doubt the development of the Palestinian economy which Israel otherwise says it wants to promote," Odile Knudsen, World Bank official for the West Bank and Gaza, said at the Middle East economic summit in Amman.

"In Amman, Israel presented large infrastructure projects and called on the private sector to mobilise, while on the ground Palestinian businessmen cannot move around and exports are blocked," said Mr. Knudsen, the World Bank's permanent representative in the Palestinian territories.

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The World Bank helps to channel international aid to the Palestinian self-rule authority.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat said Sunday in his opening speech at the Amman summit that Israel had closed off the West Bank and Gaza for a total of 200 days since the May 1994 launch of autonomy.

The closures had cost the Palestinians \$6 million — more than all the aid they had received, Mr. Arafat commented.

Mr. Knudsen added the closure came at a time when the Palestinian gross national product was falling and unemployment in Gaza had risen to 50 per cent.

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The World Bank helps to channel international aid to the Palestinian self-rule authority.

Jordan registers trade surplus with Arab Gulf states

materials necessary for plastic and chemical industries (Al Dustour).

Medical corporation to float new shares

THE MANAGEMENT of the Jordan Medical Corporation (JMC) is preparing to float new shares for private subscription within a capital restructuring process. JMC Chairman Said Hamami said the corporation's present assets would help to implement new expansion plans. JMC was set up in 1999 and had posted good profits in 1994. Mr. Hamami said that trading in JMC shares would resume at the Amman Financial Market before the end of this year (Al Aswaq).

Fees from Petra tourists exceed JD 4m

A TOTAL OF JD 4,160,159 in fees were collected from the 22,883 tourists who visited Petra from the beginning of this year until the end of September. The number of tourists who visited Petra during 1994 was only 161,234 persons (Al Aswaq).

AMERICAN FINANCIAL MARKET BOSTON BANK CENTER, NEW YORK, U.S.A.					
ZEBRALEADER: 607171 / 607172 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TODAY: 31/10/1995					
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	PREV. JD PRICE	CLOSING JD PRICE	CHANCE	INDEX NUMBER: 192.24
ARMY BANK, P.D.	180	43810	242,000	+243.750	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	9200	41425	4,470	+4,500	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	3650	6926	1,210	+1,230	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1400	3374	2,390	+2,420	
THE HEDGING BANK	2250	10013	4,450	+4,550	
JORDAN GULF BANK	13880	15785	1,180	+1,180	
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	625	239	3,640	+3,680	
UNIVERSITY BANK, SAVING & INVESTMENT	250	935	3,620	+3,740	
BUSINESS BANK	1650	5144	3,360	+3,360	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1440	5359	3,720	+3,720	
ARMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	18272	10361	1,020	+1,020	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	73950	120308	1,540	+1,600	
BANKS - S ECTOR					
	120767	274354	INDEX NUMBER: 192.24	CHANGE: +0.66%	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	19196	21745	1,660	1,660	
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	2750	5610	2,020	2,020	
ARMAS INTERNATIONAL & EDUCATION	2150	7093	3,380	3,380	
JORDANIAN REPRESENTATIVE INVESTMENT HOLDING	1000	1,320	1,150	1,150	
JORDAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	1000	1,320	1,320	1,320	
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	1500	1,665	1,110	1,110	
S ECTOR - S ECTOR					
	28446	47730	INDEX NUMBER: 128.00	CHANGE: +0.11%	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	19196	21745	1,660	1,660	
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	2750	5610	2,020	2,020	
ARMAS INTERNATIONAL & EDUCATION	2150	7093	3,380	3,380	
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UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	1500	1,665	1,110	1,110	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR					
	90087	178073	INDEX NUMBER: 124.80	CHANGE: +0.05%	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	7865	29091	3,700	3,690	
THE ARABIC COFFEE FACTORIES	100	500	5,000	5,000	
THE ARABIC COFFEE FACTORIES	430	7802	9,400	9,400	
JORDAN TANINS	345	2553	7,600	7,400	
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1657	5981	3,500	3,680	
ARMAS PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	2350	11298	4,770	4,800	
PER JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	800	2,020	2,020	2,020	
PER ARABIC COFFEE FACTORIES	227	12077	5,400	5,400	
LAJAWA CO. FOR POULTRY	6500	4420	6,600	6,600	
LAJAWA CO. FOR CONFECTION & TRADING	5500	7865	1,450	1,450	
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	7050	7473	1,050	1,050	
INTERSTATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	650	1190	1,820	1,820	
JORDAN SULFUR-CHEMICALS	4760	6258	1,320	1,320	
ARMAS CHEMICALS FOR PHAR. & CHEMICALS	700	6250	2,020	2,020	
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICAL CO.	12750	24990	1,750	1,950	
JORDAN-NEW CARBON COMPANY	3750	5863	1,650	1,570	
INTERSTATE TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	32280	47304	1,460	1,460	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR					
	90087	178073	INDEX NUMBER: 124.80	CHANGE: +0.05%	
GRAND TOTAL					
	245720	500157	INDEX NUMBER: 158.92	CHANGE: +0.43%	

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METALWORK

Asians offer know-how, cash at Mideast summit

AMMAN (AFP) — Asian countries sent large business delegations to the Amman economic summit confident they have plenty to offer the Middle East in terms of finance and know-how.

Japan, which sent only three businessmen to the first summit of its kind last year in the Moroccan city of Casablanca, bumped up its delegation to 40 businessmen for the three-day Amman conference.

"It shows increasing Japanese interest in the region as the Israeli-Arab peace process develops," said a member of the delegation, Yoshiki Hatanaka.

"Asia will become increasingly important to the Middle East because of its capital and its wealth of experience," said Yoshiki of the Institute for International Economic Studies in Tokyo.

He said Japanese companies were interested in the large infrastructure projects in the fields of transport, communication and electricity on display at the conference.

Tokyo has also announced a total of \$151 million in loans, co-financed with the World Bank, to the summit host Jordan for economic reform and telecommunications, as well as around \$20 million to help construct bridges between Jordan and Israel.

But it is not just Japan's finance that will be valuable

to the Middle East, Mr. Yoshiki said.

"We have the experience of starting from zero level after World War II and reviving our economy to pre-war levels within 10 years. It is a good lesson for the Middle East," he added.

Hirokazu Oikas, a professor at Japan's Kyorin university, said that Japanese companies were only "just discovering the eastern shores of the Mediterranean."

China, in contrast, believes it is at a similar stage of development to the Middle East after opening up its economy to the outside world in 1979.

"We are a developing country, so what we can offer is doing business with Middle East companies on the basis of equality and mutual interest," said Zhang Dianyi of the China Civil Engineering Construction company. "But we can't offer a large amount of capital and that might be a problem."

The company was heavily involved in building bridges, roads and dams in Iraq prior to the 1991 Gulf war, and now does a small amount of business with Israel, Jordan and Kuwait.

"We are now looking to expand our dealings in the Middle East," he said. Zhang's company was one of six Chinese firms at Amman, compared to just one at the Casablanca summit in October 1994.

Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand were also represented at the summit.

Summit launches MEMTTA

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Middle East Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association (MEMTTA) was established Sunday according to the Amman Declaration, issued by the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Economic Summit.

MEMTTA was the first regional body created by the MENA summit. The objective of the new association "shall be to facilitate regional cooperation in travel and tourism ... in order to promote and market the region as a tourism destination as well as to encourage and assist the development of the tourism industry serving the region," as read in the MEMTTA charter.

Egypt, Israel, the PLO on behalf of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Cyprus, Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan signed the charter during a ceremony chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. According to a press statement, Turkey was to sign the charter Tuesday.

According to the text of the charter attached to the press statement, MEMTTA will "carry out destination marketing activities," will constitute an instrument for collaboration between the public and the private sector, will create a new kind of public/private partnership in the tourism sector, and will "serve as an instrument for integrating the region into global tourism networks."

The MEMTTA charter also states that education and training for the development of human resources in the field of tourism and the establishment of a data bank for the MENA region are activities the new association will carry out.

"As long as privatisation is forced on certain countries by the World Bank, resistance of will continue and a conflict of interest will take place, even among members of the same government," Mr. Saaidi told press conference.

Mr. Saaidi added the public sector was inefficient and financially incapable of carrying out all the development programme that is expected from it.

"The private sector, he said, could shoulder some of the responsibility.

"They are more successful in terms of profit, but there is always a social price to pay,"

Multinational companies eye growing Mideast market

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — Western multinational firms are laying groundwork to expand operations in the Middle East as progress in peace talks opens prospects for wider regional markets.

"We are very optimistic that the peace process will open up all kinds of investment opportunities in the Middle East," said Evan Jones, vice president, business development of Houston-based Amoco Petroleum Company.

The company, with over \$30 billion of annual sales, is a third owner of a joint venture company planning to build the "peace pipeline" to export LNG gas from Egypt to Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

"These projects continue to look more feasible as the peace process continues to go

forward," he added.

In the telecommunications sector, many major telecoms firms are eyeing a rapidly expanding market as Middle Eastern countries rush to overhaul ageing networks, in increased competition to attract foreign investment and privatising parts of state-owned telecommunications operations.

Ericsson, the Swedish telecommunications giant, is looking at expanding post-peace regional market shares when future outlets open in Iran, Iraq and Syria.

"We see other countries who are not yet in the peace process: Syria, Iraq and Iran, they definitely will need to expand their communications... it is not yet there, but we intend to do what we can to get a share," said Goran Rasmussen, vice president, general manager of strategic

markets, at Stockholm based Ericsson Telecom A.B.

Charles Meyer, a legal consultant to European multinationals, said some of these firms "have very advanced studies."

Mr. Meyer said: "A lot of companies will come and invest in projects in this region... their intention is to be present at the very beginning of the developments. I am convinced that a lot of projects will be put into practice... I am convinced of the prospects in the Middle East if there is peace, if Syria and Lebanon are joining the process."

Many however, say while regional stability allowed many multinationals who previously shunned considering operating in the region, the actual starting of concrete projects depended on many factors, financing, viability and first and foremost political stability.

Computer giants race for growing M.E. market

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — Computer giants from Asia and the West are racing to grab a bigger share of the Middle East market, taking advantage of a peace breakthrough and economic and copyright reforms.

Although its size is relatively small compared with the industrial countries, the Middle East computer market is growing as fast as 15 per cent annually, more than double the average world rate, experts said.

From around \$1 billion five years ago, the market turnover in the Arab region has jumped to more than \$1.5 billion and the figure is set to surge in the coming years as regional states push ahead with reforms.

"Apart from the economic upturn, the introduction of laws to protect copyrights and intellectual property is also a crucial factor that is attracting world firms to this market," Wahid Atalla, general manager of the Dubai World Trade Centre, told AFP.

The centre is organising the Middle East's biggest computer show, in which more than 1,000 companies are exhibiting their latest technology.

Such electronics and information technology giants as Lotus, Microsoft, IBM, Compaq, Oracle, Sony, and Toshiba are among the participants at the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition 95, which opened in Dubai Saturday.

The companies from the United States, Britain, France, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and such Arab coun-

tries as Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are displaying a wide range of hardware and software systems, personal computers, communication equipment and other products.

"There is a strong competition in the Middle East among world computer companies. Some want to enter the market, and others are seeking to maintain or boost their share as the market is steadily growing for both hardware and software," said Robert Butt, a U.S. exhibitor at the annual show.

Competition has prompted major companies to increase investment to continuously develop their programmes and produce more Arabic software in banking, insurance and other sectors to cater for local tastes.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, is by far the biggest computer market in the Middle East, accounting for nearly 55 per cent of the turnover. But Egypt is recording the fastest growth in computer business as it has the largest population in the region, estimated at 60 million.

While Western firms remain the dominant computer power in the area, controlling nearly 65 per cent, Asian producers are steadily boosting their share through cutting prices and upgrading quality, dealers said.

Figures obtained from the four-day exhibition showed personal computers are recording the fastest growth rates, standing at around 30 per cent per year. Between 150,000 and 200,000 sets are sold annually in the Arab

World.

The software and data base industry is also growing fast, with a turnover of more than \$200 million annually.

"The computer business, hardware and software, is set for large growth in the coming years in this region as there is an increasing public awareness of the importance of such an industry in this age," said P. George at the Indian pavilion, one of the biggest software stall at the exhibition.

"You can say there is a sort of an onslaught by world companies, which are also encouraged by measures to protect intellectual property," he added.

Several Arab countries, mainly those in the oil-rich Gulf, have enforced legislations to protect copyrights and intellectual property. The measures followed pressure from the United States which had complained its companies were losing more than \$2 billion a year because of piracy.

Officials in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which account for around two thirds of the Arab computer market, have reported progress in a campaign to wipe out piracy in computer and other audio-visual systems. Their measures include regular inspection of shops and heavy fines against violators.

Organisers of GITEX said more world firms were looking for local agents at the show while others were negotiating for sale deals.

"The exhibition is an opportunity for computer makers to promote their products in the region and negotiate deals with possible customers," one said. "Apart from deals, they sell to the public at an adjoining shopping centre. Last year such sales exceeded \$5 million."

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Moroccan official stresses sound financial policies for successful privatisation

By Lota Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Privatisation could become a complete failure if investment laws are not accompanied with sound financial policies, Moroccan Minister of Privatisation Abdul Rahman Saaidi said Tuesday.

"As long as privatisation is forced on certain countries by the World Bank, resistance of will continue and a conflict of interest will take place, even among members of the same government,"

Mr. Saaidi told press conference.

Mr. Saaidi said.

"Morocco had no choice but to push through privatisation policies, but we do not have a successful formula to follow or give to the world," Mr. Saaidi added.

Mr. Saaidi added the public sector was inefficient and financially incapable of carrying out all the development programme that is expected from it.

"We should work together to create our own market," Mr. Saaidi said.

He added the conflict in the Middle East region stands in the way of further coordination.

The private sector, he said, could shoulder some of the responsibility.

"They are more successful in terms of profit, but there is always a social price to pay,"

Yemen finalising plans for free zone in Aden

ADEN (R) — Yemen will finalise plans within a month to turn its southern port city of Aden into a free trade zone, the official Saba News Agency has said.

Saba said President Ali Abdallah Saleh chaired a meeting which instructed a committee of experts to draw up final plans for the zone and submit them by Nov. 20.

The Yemeni government is looking for ways to revive Aden, a once bustling port which was badly affected by a siege during a civil war last year between the government in Sanaa and southern separatists based in the city.

Saba said the meeting reviewed a report by Dirham Abdu Noman, the chairman of the Aden Free Zone, on investment and infrastructure

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12 Miscellaneous

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1995

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Show business persons whom you deal with which you communicate well with them and you will get good results for great success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 19) You can come to a fine agreement with a partner today if you show you understand what is uppermost on his, or her mind.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be more skillful at your career activities and get better results.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get into the amusements with kin which have proven pleasurable for some time to come and you will have enjoyable times with loved ones.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get your home more charming. An overly dynamic partner could get you into trouble today if you follow his or her lead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Sit down with associates and discuss how to make today and tonight more productive.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about the practical and financial side of your life and go after good advice from experts.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Do whatever can gain you personal goals and be with persons who are loyal.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Confer with experts and plan the strategy today which can gain you aims faster and better for your ultimate success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Intimates and acquaintances make fine suggestions, so listen to them carefully today and tonight.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) Lots of fine ideas are yours today, so put them in operation without delay.

Peanuts

WHEN THE CATCHER COMES OUT TO THE MOUND FOR A CONFERENCE, IT'S USUALLY A DRAMATIC MOMENT...

BEETHOVEN HAD A BLUE COAT WITH METAL BUTTONS THAT HE LIKED VERY MUCH

BUT NOT ALWAYS



Andy Cap

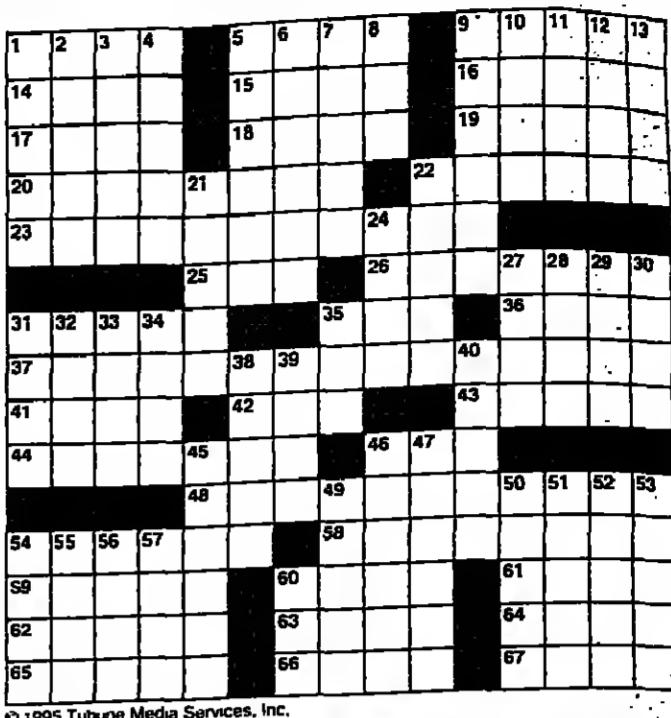


Mutt'n'Jeff



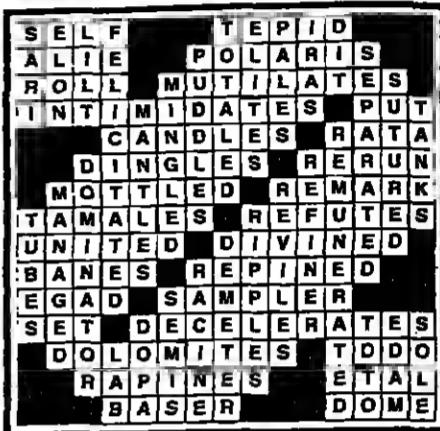
THE Daily Crossword

by Stanley B. Whitten



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Yesterday's puzzle solved:



47 Church assemblies
49 Golf score
50 Wild
51 Held in reserve
52 Bone: pref.
53 City in England
54 — Little Acre"
55 Gemstone
56 Stiff hair
57 Victim
60 Gun gp.



"I've begun a strength training program. I've started drinking from 16-ounce cans instead of 12-ounce cans."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
2 TAHAN HIRSCH
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SPOT THE FINESSE

unusual finesse we have come across. Once North raised hearts, Morehead proceeded to slam via the shortest route possible.

In the absence of a diamond lead, the contract was excellent. Looking only at the North-South cards, it would succeed if the diamond king were with West; if either defender held Q of clubs, Morehead could trip the finesse of clubs 4-3. As the play went, Morehead uncovered still another fine.

The opening lead was covered by the nine and jack of spades and taken by the king. North then led the two of clubs, which Morehead cashed in dummy, and the ten of spades was led. East covered again, declarer took the ace and, when West's seven was pinned, declarer's nine was high and low, and the hand was won.

Since this was a duplicate tournament, Morehead was still not satisfied. He crossed to the table with the ace of clubs and led the two of spades. East produced the three of clubs, and Morehead cashed it. When that held, a diamond was discarded on the six of spades and, after cashing the ace of diamonds, declarer returned to hand with the king of clubs to ruff a diamond for an overtrick and a top score.

Morehead held the South cards in this hand from a pair event and featured one of the more

memorable hands of a North-South pair.

North-South: EAST SOUTH WEST
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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1995 13

Stockholm might bid for 2004 Games

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Stockholm will bid for the 2004 Olympics, as long as the government approves a financial guarantee, the city council decided late Monday.

The vote, taken after a three-hour debate, was 72 in favour and 27 against the bid.

The main parties in the council, including the Social Democratic Party and conservative Moderate Party, voted in favour of the Olympic bid.

Bids for the Summer Games must be presented next year to the International Olympic Committee, which will decide the host city in 1997.

Stockholm last hosted the Summer Olympics in 1912, and also served as the equestrian venue for the 1956 Games that were staged in Melbourne, Australia.

All major sports organisations, including the Swedish Olympic Committee, have expressed their support for the bid. A majority of Stockholmers, 73 per cent, favoured the

bid provided no tax money is involved, a recent poll said.

Stockholm proposes a budget of 12 billion kronor (\$1.7 billion). The main cost will involve the construction of a new 80,000-seat Olympic stadium.

The 1912 Olympic stadium is still used for international competition, including athletics.

Some doubts have been raised about the planning committee's estimates that lottery profits could amount to a fifth of the budget.

Other contenders Stockholm faces include Rome, Italy; Cape Town, South Africa; Istanbul, Turkey; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Buenos Aires, Argentina; San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. Petersburg, Russia; Seville, Spain; and Lyon or Lille in France.

China has not confirmed yet whether it will submit a bid. Beijing lost by two votes to Sydney, Australia, to the vote for the 2000 Games.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Ferrari gears up in Middle East

MARANELLO, Italy (R) — Luxury sports car maker Ferrari said on Monday it was opening new outlets in the Middle East and Far East to help capitalise on a boom in sales. The Italian firm, owned by Fiat Spa, said Global sales shot up 25 per cent over the first nine months of 1995. "By the end of the year we expect to have sold some 3,300 cars against 2,792 in 1994," a spokeswoman at the firm said. Ferrari said in a statement it had opened an office in Shanghai on Monday, its second sales outlet in China. It was also poised to open new showrooms in Dubai and Malaysia. The company said sales in the Far East and among Pacific states was helping drive Ferrari forward. "Ten years ago this area represented barely three per cent of Ferrari sales. Today it accounts for over 15 per cent," the company's statement said.

Salin back with Toyota

PARIS (AFP) — Carlos Sainz will rejoin Toyota, with whom he won two world championships in 1990 and 1992, next season. The Spaniard has been driving for Subaru for the last two seasons. He is back with Scottish team-mate Colin McRae going into the RAC Rally of Britain after winning last week's Catalunya Rally. Toyota also said they had parted company with their technical director Dieter Bolling after world champion Didier Auriol of France was disqualified from the Catalunya Rally. Auriol lost his fourth place when scrutineers discovered his Toyota Celica's turbo air-intake was illegal. The disqualification cost Auriol any chance in the world championship which finishes with the RAC on Nov. 19-22.

Bolton upset Arsenal 1-0

BOLTON, England (AP) — Forward John McGinlay scored a first-half goal as Bolton upset Arsenal 1-0 Monday in an English Premier League match. After Arsenal pressed in the first 15 minutes, McGinlay broke through in the 35th to a 15-yard (metre) shot off a pass from Alan Stubbs to give Bolton the lead and only its second victory of the season. It was only the sixth goal yielded this season by Arsenal in league play and its first goal allowed in 433 minutes. Arsenal, suffering only its second loss of the year, pressed throughout the second half but failed repeatedly to beat the stretched but poised Bolton defense. English international David Platt came on with 12 minutes to play — his first appearance in more than a month after being out with an injury.

Europe's best head for Glasgow

PARIS (AFP) — Rangers are hoping for a sensational victory over Juventus and Celtic will be looking to beat Paris St. Germain this week, as Europe's top club head for Glasgow.

Winless after three matches, Rangers must beat the Italians at Ibrox to keep alive their already remote chances of finishing Group C.

Juventus, who have won all three of their games, made a mockery of the Scots in Turin two weeks ago, playing them off the field in a 4-1 rout.

"I can't do it on my own and it will be very tough indeed for us," Gascoigne said. "We must attack from the word go. We will have to work really and when we get the ball we must try and keep it."

"Then we will have to try and make chances for the forwards but we know we got a lesson from Juventus in the first game."

The other title favourites, defending champions Ajax Amsterdam, have an easy fix against Grasshoppers in Zurich, having already beaten the Swiss 3-1 a fortnight ago.

Ajax, 6-1 winners at the weekend, have a 100 per cent record in both the Dutch and Champions leagues and have so far conceded only a single goal in European action.

Group rivals Real Madrid are looking for more fun against Ferencvaros, after a 6-1 walkover last month. However, Real's Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano and libero Fernando Hierro are both doubtful with muscle strains.

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Israel signs memo with Enron to buy Qatari gas Main LNG transit terminal likely to be built at Aqaba

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN -- Israel on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding with an American company to buy up to three million tonnes of Qatari natural gas, with prospects strong that Jordan would house the main transit terminal that could serve Israel as well as the Kingdom and the Palestinian territories.

As if to seal the indirect alliance, Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani and his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres also met and shook hands in front of cameras in one of the rarely public encounters between ministers of the two countries which do not have diplomatic relations.

The memorandum was signed by Israeli Energy Minister Gonen Segev and the chief executive of the U.S. Enron Corporation at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit, which concluded in Amman on Tuesday after three days of discussions on regional economic development and business opportunities.

The signing of the document followed an announcement on Monday that the government of Qatar and Enron had reached an agreement under which the U.S. firm will process five million tonnes of natural gas a year and 40,000 barrels of condensate a day at a plant to be built in Qatar.

Enron is operating Qatar's giant North Dome Field in partnership with Mobil. The gas project is expected to cost between \$4.5 billion and \$5 billion.

Qatar, which says direct dealings with Israel has to wait until full peace is achieved in the Middle East.

is not directly involved in the memorandum signed on Tuesday, but it is the first time that Israel will be purchasing gas from a Gulf country.

According to Jordanian and Israeli officials, there is a tacit agreement that a major gas terminal will be built at Jordan's Aqaba port, which will take in liquefied natural gas (LNG) ferried aboard tankers from the Enron plant at Ras Laffan in Qatar. From Aqaba, the gas will be transported overland to Israel, which, according to Mr. Segev, will build a \$300 million plant to convert LNG to consumable gas. Delivery is expected to begin in 2010.

The Aqaba terminal would also help meet the demand for gas in Jordan as well as the Palestinian territories. The officials emphasised that the Aqaba project proposal was not final as such since Enron had kept the option open to build the terminal at an Israeli port, but it looked like Aqaba would be the final choice.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres appeared to throw his weight behind the Aqaba proposal when he told reporters Tuesday morning that "there are suggestions that the main station will be on the Jordanian side."

"If Jordan wants to supply gas to Israel, why not?" he said.

The cost of the Aqaba terminal under consideration and the potential returns from it for Jordan were not immediately known.

Qatar is the first Gulf Arab country to enter a major commercial project that directly or indirectly involves Israel after indicating strongly in the last few months that Doha was interested in having relations with the Jewish state.

The Saudi-led Gulf

Cooperation Council, of which Qatar is a member along with the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman, dropped the indirect trade boycott of Israel early this year. Oman has agreed to set up direct trade relations with Israel.

Shortly after the Enron memorandum was signed on Tuesday, Sheikh Hamad, the Qatari minister, Sheikh Abdullah Ben Hamad Al Attiyah, Qatar's minister of energy and industry, and Mr. Peres posed for photographers and shook hands following a closed-door meeting.

It was not immediately known what was discussed at the meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Segev, the Israeli energy minister.

Mr. Peres described the event as the beginning of "the political process" with Qatar and said it had made "some small steps forward."

"I do believe we are now beginning to proceed into a new relationship... I'm rather optimistic about it."

Mr. Segev told Israel Radio that he expected Qatar to establish some form of official relations with Israel soon.

"I'm happy to say that the economic process has bypassed the political process, and I'm sure that this is a genuine assurance that the political process will come very quickly in the wake of the economic process, and will be very soundly based and deep-rooted," he told Israel Radio, monitored by the Associated Press.

Reuters quoted Sheikh Hamad in an earlier interview that there was a "diversity" of views among the GCC members over moves towards political and economic normalisation with Israel.

(Continued on page 7)



Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani shake hands as His Majesty King Hussein looks on after reconciling the rival offers by Egypt and Qatar to host the next Middle East and North Africa economic summit (photo by Yousef Allan)

King reconciles Qatari, Egyptian offers

AMMAN (Petra) — His

Majesty King Hussein on

Tuesday met with the

Egyptian and Qatari for-

igners and Sheikh Hamad Ben

Jassem Al Thani, to recon-

cile the two countries' posi-

tions regarding the venue for the next Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit.

In a statement to the

MENA summit King Hus-

sein said: "We were able to

overcome what was called

misunderstanding, and

things went back to nor-

mal. I am happy and

proud, as a matter of fact,

for what has taken place

and response of our

brothers in Qatar is

wonderful because it has

given up aspirations to its

bigger brother, Egypt, for

the next summit which is

going to be held next year.

everybody had agreed that

the next one would be held in Qatar."

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everybody had agreed that

the next one would be held in Qatar."

over and went to see the birds.

COLUMN 8

Nose rubbing wears thin for Duke of Edinburgh

ROTORUA, New Zealand

(AFP) — Britain's Duke of

Edinburgh found rubbing

noses here Tuesday a hit

likeness after the line-up

of noses to be rubbed grew

a little long. His first offi-

cial engagement in New

Zealand saw him visit

Mokoia Island in Lake

Rotorua where a stichbird

breeding programme is

funded by one of his chari-

ties, the World Wildlife

Fund. As he arrived on the

island he was greeted by

elders of the Te Arawa

tribe. The official pro-

gramme called for the duke

to "hongi" with a handful

of elders. A hongi involves

touching noses to "share

the air." However as the

duke began to hongi, the

line-up of noses suddenly

grew and according to TV3

network after he rubbed 36

noses he quit the line-up

and went to see the birds.

Diana to visit Argentina

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana will visit

Argentina in late

November, Buckingham

Palace has announced. The

visit on Nov. 23-26 is

another sign of warming

relations between the two

countries, who went to war

over the Falkland Islands in

1982. The princess' mis-

sion was described as a

"working visit" but no

details of her itinerary were

released. Last week, Prime

Minister John Major met

Argentine President Carlos

Menem in New York dur-

ing the 50th anniversary

celebrations at the United

Nations. It was the first

meeting between leaders of

the two countries since the

war. Mr. Major invited Mr.

Menem to visit Britain, but

no date was announced.

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Mr. Jardaneh said the process

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